

Foreign Names Committee
Geographic Names Standardization Policy for
Afghanistan
Version 2.2c



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Executive Summary

The following points summarize key factors of the names standardization policy for Afghan geographic names of the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN).

Although the 2004 constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan recognizes two, and in some areas three, official languages (Persian, Pashto, and other locally-official languages), in geographic naming practices, Afghanistan appears to follow a principle of *univocity*, i.e. one and only one name per feature, except in a few cases. The Board on Geographic Names therefore approves one standard name for each feature in Afghanistan, either in Persian or in Pashto, based on preponderance of evidence from official sources. Where good evidence of dual-language forms exists, two names may be approved. In addition, for some well-known features, a conventional (English-language) name is also approved.

Approved Persian forms for names in Afghanistan are derived by romanizing names from official Afghan sources via the 1958 BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Persian.

Approved Pashto forms for names in Afghanistan are derived by romanizing names from official Afghan sources via the 1968 BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Pashto.

Both the Persian and Pashto scripts rarely mark short vowels, but short vowels are necessary for correct romanization. To romanize an Afghan name, the short vowels of the name must be inferred from a previously romanized source, or from a dictionary. Thus, in practice, two forms of each name are necessary in order to derive its standard, approved, form: one Persian or Pashto-script form from an official source, and one roman-script form to infer the short vowels.

It is often unclear whether a particular name is in the Persian or Pashto language. BGN policy states that a name is assumed to be Persian, unless it is demonstrably Pashto from its alphabet or generic term. Details of this policy are found in Appendix D.

For many features in Afghanistan, no official Afghan mapping in Persian or Pashto script is available. Standard forms for such features are derived from roman-script sources. Often, those sources are written in the 1959 romanization system of the Afghan Ministry of Mines and Industries (AMMI, or Yaghoubi System). Approved forms of names taken from Yaghoubi sources are derived using the Yaghoubi conversion table in Appendix G.

When dialectal variants of a name are found to exist, standard literary Afghan Persian and Afghan Pashto forms are given preference in determining the approved spellings of geographical names. No attempt is made to impose Iranian Persian spellings on Afghan Persian names.

1. Introduction

The standardization policies presented below have been prepared to effect consistent treatment of geographic name spellings in U.S. Government data bases, publications, maps, and charts, and are intended to satisfy the statutory

requirements levied upon the U.S. Board on Geographic Names in Public Law USC 80-242 to develop principles, policies and procedures for geographic names standardization, and to promulgate decisions with respect to the principles of geographic nomenclature and orthography.

2. Scope

This policy specifies the methods for determining official spellings of Afghan place names for use throughout the U.S. Government. The policies described herein are limited to geographic names encountered in Afghanistan, and shall be applied to all Afghan geographic name and feature records in the Geographic Names Data Base maintained for U.S. Government purposes by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency.

3. Linguistic Policy

3.1 General Remarks

Afghanistan is a linguistic patchwork: the number of languages spoken by Afghans has been variously reported as anywhere from 32 to 47. Approximately 8 million of Afghanistan's inhabitants speak Pashto, while approximately 5.6 million speak Persian (Dari). Related dialects of Persian are also the primary language of the Tajik, Hazara, and Chahar Aimak peoples. Persian, rather than Pashto, serves as the means of communication between speakers of different languages in Afghanistan and, therefore, functions as the *lingua franca*. Persian also has been traditionally used as the language of governance and elite culture within Afghanistan, though that situation may be changing.

The Pashtuns are the largest single ethnic group constituting some 45% of the population. They inhabit primarily the southern and eastern parts of the country. The Tajiks, whose language is Tajik Persian, are the second largest group (www.Afghanistans.com estimates their population at 21% of the total population). They are concentrated in the Kābol and Badakhshān provinces and the Herāt region.

Other languages spoken by significant segments of the population include Aimaq (480,000 speakers), Balochi (200,000 speakers), Brahui, a Dravidian language (200,000 speakers residing in the extreme south known as the Baluchi area), Hazaragi (1,403,000 speakers), Turkmen (500,000 speakers), and Uzbek (1,403,000 speakers).¹ The Turkmen and Uzbeks inhabit an area north of the Hindu Kush and constitute about 11% of the population.

For a table of language codes and populations of the major languages of Afghanistan, see Appendix A. For a map showing the distribution of languages within Afghanistan, see Appendix B. For a chart of the genetic relationships of the major languages of Afghanistan, see Appendix C.

3.2 National Languages

Afghanistan's 2004 Constitution (unofficial Afghan Government translation) makes the following statements concerning language policy:

Article 16 [Languages]

(1) From among the languages of Pushto, Dari, Uzbeki, Turkmani, Baluchi, Pashai, Nuristani, Pamiri (alsana), Arab and other languages spoken in the country, Pushto and Dari are the official languages of the state.

¹ Statistical information from *Ethnologue: Languages of the World*, 14th edition, copyright © 2001 SIL International, found at <http://www.ethnologue.com/>.

(2) The Turkic languages (Uzbaki and Turkmen), Baluchi, Pashai, Nuristani and Pamiri (alsana) are -- in addition to Pashto and Dari -- the third official language in areas where the majority speaks them. The practical modalities for implementation of this provision shall be specified by law.

(3) The state adopts and implements effective plans for strengthening, and developing all languages of Afghanistan.

(4) Publications and radio and television broadcasting are allowed in all languages spoken in the country.

(Adopted by Grand Council on: 4 Jan 2004)

Although the 2004 constitution of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan recognizes two, and in some areas three, official languages (Persian, Pashto, and other locally-official languages), in geographic naming practices, Afghanistan appears to follow a principle of univocity, i.e. one and only one name per feature, except in a few cases. The Board on Geographic Names therefore approves one standard name for each feature in Afghanistan, either in Persian or in Pashto, based on preponderance of evidence from official sources. Where good evidence of different forms in the two languages exists, two names may be approved. For details of the current interpretation of the BGN dual-language policy for Afghanistan, consult Appendix D.

3.2.1 Persian

The BGN views Afghan Persian, often called Dari, as part of the same language as Iranian Persian, often called Farsi. The language code FAS is applied equally to Persian names in Afghanistan and Iran. All approved Persian-language names in the GNDB shall be tagged with the code FAS. The dialect code for Afghan Persian (Dari) is PRS. The dialect code for Iranian Persian (Farsi) is PES. See Appendix A for a full list of language codes used by the BGN for Afghan geographical names.

Even though it views Afghan and Iranian Persian as a single language, the BGN allows that lexical differences are possible between Afghan Persian and Iranian Persian. For example, the BGN-approved form of the word for valley in Afghan Persian is ‘darah’, while in Iranian Persian it is ‘darreh’. See Appendix C for a chart of the genetic relationships between the dialects of Persian, and the other languages of Afghanistan.

3.2.1.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

Official maps of Afghanistan typically appear as a mixture of Persian-language names and Pashto-language names. Persian, as the language of the Afghan elites, and as the lingua-franca of Afghanistan, has enjoyed a somewhat wider usage within government communications, including mapping. However, some evidence during the Taliban regime seemed to suggest efforts to limit or restrict the use of Dari Persian in official communication.

3.2.1.2 Alphabet and Transcriptions

3.2.1.2.1 Alphabet

Approved Persian-script toponyms for Afghanistan (NAME_TYPE = NS) are written in a modified version of the Arabic script, hereafter referred to as the Perso-Arabic script. Like Arabic, it is written from right to left. It has no case distinction between capital and lower-case letters. Each letter appears in up to four forms: initial, medial, final, and isolated. Some letters join either on the right or the left side with adjoining characters. The Persian alphabet differs from the standard Arabic alphabet by the addition of four letters: چ(chah), ژ(zheh), پ(peh), and گ(gaf), making thirty-two letters all together. Final ی(yeh) is typically written without the dots as ى, though in medial and initial forms, it is written with dots.

The dictionary order of the Persian alphabet is shown in table 1 below:

Table 1: Dictionary Order of Persian Alphabet

Position	Letter		Position	Letter		Position	Letter	
1	آ	Alef māddah	11	ذ	zāl	22	غ	Gheyn
1a	ا	Alef	12	ر	Reh	23	ف	Feh
2	ب	Beh	13	ز	Zeh	24	ق	Qāf
3	پ	Peh	14	ژ	Zheh	25	ک ²	Kāf
4	ت	Teh	15	س	Sīn	26	گ	Gāf
5	ث	Seh	16	ش	Shīn	27	ل	Lām
6	ج	Jīm	17	ص	Ṣād	28	م	Mīm
7	چ	Cheh	18	ض	Zād	29	ن	Nūn
8	ح	Ḥeh	19	ط	Ṭeyn	30	و	Vāv
9	خ	Kheh	20	ظ	Zeyn	31	ه	Heh
10	د	Dāl	21	ع	‘Ayn	32	ی	Yeh

Persian numerals, known colloquially as 'Hindi' numerals, are written as shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2. Persian Numerals

0 : ۰ 1 : ۱ 2 : ۲ 3 : ۳ 4 : ۴, ۴ 5 : ۵, ۵ 6 : ۶, ۶ 7 : ۷ 8 : ۸ 9 : ۹

Numerals are written left-to-right, even though otherwise Persian is written right-to-left.

3.2.1.2.2 Special Characters

The following special characters are allowed in approved Persian-script toponyms (NAME_TYPE = NS) in Afghanistan:

- **ء** (hamzah): Represents hiatus between vowels (as in پائین pā‘īn, *upper*), or the compound (ezāfat) suffix. Unlike in Iran, approved Persian names for Afghanistan may use hamzah as the ezāfat marker over all three vowels (أ و ئ), plus heh (ه). For approved Persian-script names for Afghanistan, an explicit marker is obligatory for ezāfat, unlike in Iranian names, where it is optional.
- The combinations of kāf or gāf and alef or lām are written with the special ligatures: کا, کل, etc.
- **آ** (alef maqṣūrah): Represents the sound /ā/ in certain words of Arabic origin.

² Isolated and final Kāf is often written without the hamzah in Persian orthography.

3.2.1.2.3 Diacritics

The following diacritics are approved for Persian-language Persian-script toponyms in Afghanistan (NAME_TYPE = NS). While these diacritics are rarely written in Afghan sources other than textbooks, they are useful for accurately representing the spelling of a name, and their use follows the recommendations of the UN Group of Experts on Geographic Names in regards to Arabic vowel pointing.

- $\overset{\circ}{\text{O}}$ (zebar or fatḥah): represents the vowel /a/.
- $\overset{\circ}{\text{O}}$ (peysh or zamah): represents the vowel /o/.
- $\overset{\circ}{\text{O}}$ (zeyr or kasrah): represents the vowel /e/.
- $\overset{\circ}{\text{O}}$ (shaddah): written above a consonant to indicate a geminate (doubled) consonant.
- $\overset{\circ}{\text{O}}$ (sokūn or jazm): Written above a consonant to indicate that it is pronounced silently, i.e. with no attached vowel.
- $\overset{\circ}{\text{O}}$ (tanvīn): Written after alef to indicate an adverbial suffix, pronounced 'an'.
- $\overset{\circ}{\text{O}}$ (maddah): Used over initial alef only, indicates /ā/.
- $\overset{\circ}{\text{O}}$ (superscript alef): Represents the sound /ā/ in certain words of Arabic origin.

3.2.1.2.4 Approved Transliteration System

Approved roman-script Persian names (NAME_TYPE = N) in Afghanistan are transliterated using the BGN/PCGN Persian 1958 System. The system can be found in the publication *Romanization Systems and Roman Script Spelling Conventions* (2006), published by the BGN, PCGN, and NGA. For convenience, the transliteration system is included as Appendix E of this document. No letters or letter combinations which are not found in BGN/PCGN 1958 Persian System are permitted in approved names of this type.

Cognate words in Afghan Persian and Iranian Persian need not be romanized equivalently, if there exists good evidence of a difference in vowelizing or diacritical marks between the words in the two countries. For example, the approved generic term for *valley* is دَرَه 'darah' in Afghanistan, but دَرِه 'darreh' in Iran.

3.2.1.2.5 Other Transliteration Systems for Afghan Persian

3.2.1.2.5.1 Afghan Ministry of Mines and Industries (AMMI or Yaghoubi) System

The Afghan Ministry of Mines and Industries (AMMI) developed a transliteration system for geographic names in partnership with the Pashto Academy, Kabul, in 1959. The system is also known as the Yaghoubi system, after its originator. The system was designed to accommodate both Persian and Pashto. This system was subsequently adopted for use in all geographical products of the Afghan government, and remains the most common transliteration system for Afghan cartographic series. At the 207th meeting of the FNC in 1970, the decision was made that "[n]ames derived by the Yakubi system are used only as cross references [variants]." Sources in the Yaghoubi system are converted to BGN/PCGN spellings using the rules in Appendix G.

3.2.1.2.5.2 Other Transliteration Systems for Persian Geographical Names in Afghanistan

Other transliteration systems likely to be encountered for toponyms include:

- The Transliteration/Transcription system of the National Cartography Center (NCC) of Iran.
- The American Library Association – Library of Congress system
- The Intelligence Community Persian Transliteration Standard for Personal Names
- *Encyclopedia of Islam* System.
- ISO 233-3 System

Name forms romanized according to any of these systems are treated as variant spellings.

3.2.1.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

General Rule 1. Since short vowels are typically not shown in Persian script, short vowels need to be reconstructed before the approved form of an Afghan name can be determined. If an official source which contains a Romanized form is available, then the short vowels are taken from that romanized form. However, if an official Romanized form is not available, general BGN policy states that in such cases, the short vowels are to be reconstructed by looking up the elements of the toponym in a dictionary.

General Rule 2. In keeping with policies for Iran and the Arabic-speaking world, when only Romanized evidence for an Afghan Persian name is available (i.e. no Persian script is available), all elements of the name whose etymologies are certain are converted to BGN-style spellings, with reference to the glossary in Section 7 or a dictionary. Unrecognizable elements of the name are not altered, unless they contain letters not in the BGN/PCGN Persian Transliteration System; those letters are converted to their BGN equivalents using Table D.1 in Appendix D.

General Rule 3. For approved Persian-language roman-script names in Afghanistan, no characters or combinations of characters are permitted which are not found in the BGN/PCGN Persian Transliteration System.

General Rule 4. Diacritic marks other than the ones listed in the BGN/PCGN 1958 Persian Romanization System are not permitted in official romanized Persian names for Afghanistan.

General Rule 5. The apostrophe (') and inverted apostrophe (‘) are special symbols, and are permitted in the romanized forms of geographic names. Follow BGN guidance for correct Unicode encoding of quote characters (BGN/FNC Memo of March 20, 2006: Guidance on Proper Use of Quotes).

General Rule 6. Uppercase letters in standardized name forms retain diacritics.

General Rule 7. In determining the approved spelling of a name, literary forms are preferred to dialectal forms.

3.2.1.4 Pronunciation

While the BGN has not traditionally considered pronunciation to be within its purview, general guidance on the pronunciation of Persian letters and their romanized equivalents is given in Appendix H. Accurate knowledge of the pronunciation of a geographic name does become necessary, however, when romanizing it, in order to reconstruct its short vowels.

3.2.1.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

3.2.1.5.1 Abbreviations

Abbreviations are rarely found on official sources produced by Afghanistan, except for marginalia. Some abbreviations are found on Russian-language sources. When determining standard spellings of Persian-language toponyms found on Russian sources, Russian abbreviations are spelled out fully and then translated to their Persian equivalents before being transliterated.

3.2.1.5.2 Generic terms and feature designations

In names which contain a generic term in addition to a specific name element, the generic term precedes the specific name element in most instances, usually connected by an *ezāfat* suffix. When the generic term follows the specific, no *ezāfat* suffix is used in the approved form of the name.

In Persian names, generic terms are not collected for populated places; terms for populated places which could be considered generics are considered part of the specific name.

3.2.1.5.3 Hyphenation and capitalization

Hyphenization is rare in Afghan Persian geographic names. If a hyphen does occur in an official Afghan name, it is included in the approved Romanized form of the name as well.

Moreover, in approved Afghan Persian Romanized name forms, the relational (*ezāfah*) suffixes *-e* and *-ye* are attached to nouns with a hyphen, e.g., *Borj-e Qal‘ah* and *Gerdū-ye ‘Olyā* (see 3.2.1.5.5 below). Hyphens should not also be added after the *ezāfah* suffix, even though most other transliteration systems do so.

BGN policy on hyphenization within cardinal numbers that occur in geographic names have not been fully developed.

Afghan Persian names, when written in romanized form, are written in upper- and lowercase letters. All name elements are written with an initial uppercase letter, except for the conjunction “*va*,” meaning “and” and the various Persian forms of the Arabic definite article *ال*, for example, ‘*al*’, ‘*ed*’, ‘*od*’, ‘*ol*’, ‘*osh*’, when those elements occur in non-initial position in a name.

3.2.1.5.4 Numbers

Arabic numerals and Roman numerals are rarely found in Persian geographic names, though numerals do occur frequently in street names. When numerals do occur in native names, according to BGN policy, they are written out in Persian orthography before being transliterated.

BGN Policy on proper vocalization and hyphenation of the word ‘*va*’ in numerals greater than twenty, for example *بیستویک* ‘*bīst va yek*’ twenty-one, is currently under discussion.

Knowledge of Persian numerals is necessary in order to read geographic coordinates from official Afghan maps.

3.2.1.5.5 Ezāfat Compounds

3.2.1.5.5.1 General Remarks

The *ezāfat* (compounding or relational) suffix is an important grammatical marker in Persian. It is pronounced /eh/ or /yeh/, depending on whether it is attached to a word ending in a consonant or a vowel. In geographic names, *ezāfat* is used in the following cases:

Noun 1 + Noun 2, where Noun 1 is possessed by Noun 2. Example: راهٔ فرودگاه: rāh-e forūdgāh, airport road.

Noun 1 + Noun 2, where noun2 is in apposition to noun 1. Example: ولایت کُتَر: Velāyat-e Konar,, Konar Province.

To express distance from a point, as in the following example:

در مسافتٔ شش میلی (masāfat-e), at a distance of six miles

Preposition + Noun. Example: جلؤ خانه: jelo-ye khānah, in front of the house.

Noun + Adjective, where the noun is modified by the adjective. Example: شهر بزرگ: Shahr-e Bozorg

The *ezāfat* is romanized as *-e* or *-ye* according to Note 8 of the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Persian. However, since *ezāfat* is only rarely written in Persian, it is often difficult to determine when to write it in toponyms, and when not to. Please see section 3.2.1.2.2 above for differences in the orthography of *ezāfat* in Afghan Persian as opposed to Iranian Persian.

3.2.1.5.5.2 Specific Rules for Persian *ezāfat*

The following rules represent the BGN policy on when to write *ezāfat* in Romanized Persian geographic names of Afghanistan. It is intended that the rules in this section agree with the similar rules for *ezāfat* in the Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Iran, version 2.3 (346 FNC, 10 January 2006).

- i. Include the *ezāfat* in Romanized toponyms when it is explicitly written using hamzah above final heh, or hamzah above final yeh, vāv, or alef. Romanize the *ezāfat* in accordance with the BGN/PCGN 1956 Persian Romanization System.
- ii. Include the *ezāfat* in Romanized toponyms when it is found written out in a Romanized toponym listed in an official source from one of the national names authorities of Afghanistan, such as the sources listed in section 6.1 or 6.2.
- iii. When *ezāfat* is not explicitly written, use the following rules for Romanization, in accordance with the BGN/PCGN 1956 Persian Romanization System:

- iii (a). کوه: kowh, mountain. Always write *'-e'* after kowh when it begins the name. Never use the *ezāfat* after kowh when it ends the name.

کوهٔ کلان Kowh-e Kalān

but

گل کوه Gol Kowh

(Occasional approved exceptions to this rule occur.)

- iii (b). تپه: tapah, hill. Write *'-ye'* after *tapah* when it begins the name, but not after *tapah* when it ends the name. Occasionally, exceptions occur when in the

first instance (*tapah* comes first) but is followed by a color-word or by a one-syllable specific geographic name. Sometimes, the one-syllable specific name will still take a '-ye,' depending on the part of the nation that it comes from. With a two (or more) syllable specific name, retain the '-ye'. (Note: See the further note below with use of the Turkish endings 'sī' and 'sū'.)

iii (c). باغ : bāgh, *garden*; دره : darah, *valley*. Bāgh and darah follow the rules for *tapah* (iii b)

باغ یسوف	Bāgh-e Yosūf
<i>but</i>	
سلطان باغ	Soltān Bāgh

iii (d). Common place-name modifiers: Always use an *ezāfat* with a following word that designates elevation, or size, or age, or direction (e.g., soflá, voshtá, `olyā, bālā, vasaṭ, pā`īn, mīānī, bozorg, now, gharbī, jonūbī, sharqī, shomālī).

شغلان بالا	Shoglān-e Bālā
------------	----------------

iii (e). Other noun modifiers: Use an *ezāfat* to modify common generic terms used in place names, when the generic term precedes the specific term. If the generic term follows the specific, do not use *ezāfat*. Generic terms in this category include: Daryā (*sea*), rowd (*stream, river*), khowr, chashmah (*spring*), dasht (*desert, plain*), gardanah (*pass, defile*), takht (*flat, higher place*), kalātah (*farm, hamlet*), masjed (*mosque*), zeyārat (*shrine*), qal`ah (*fort*), robāt (*inn, caravanserai*), īstgāh (*station*).

Examples

Name of a sea or ocean

	دریای خزر	Daryā-ye Khazar (Caspian Sea)
--	-----------	-------------------------------

Name of a stream or river

	رود ارس	Rowd-e Aras
<i>but</i>	ژیس رود	Zhīs Rowd

iii (f). Turkish Possessive Suffixes: When a word originates from a Turkic language (Uzbek or Turkmen) and ends with 'ī', 'ū', 'sī', or 'sū', the *ezāfat* is not written, because the Turkish ending already encompasses the possessive/descriptive function.

iii (g). For features named after famous persons, *ezāfat* is not written in approved Romanized forms, unless the feature was in fact possessed by the person it was named for.

3.2.15.6 Arabic Borrowings

Arabic borrowings are found in some Afghan Persian toponyms. They can sometimes be recognized by the presence of letters which indicate emphatic consonants in Arabic: ص:ض:ح:ع:ط:ظ:ث. Though they are Arabic words in origin, they are Romanized using

the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Persian, not the corresponding Romanization System for Arabic. See Notes 5 and 7 in the *Romanization Guide*, 'Romanization System for Persian' for examples of their treatment.

At various times during the recent past, there have been attempts to 'Afghanze' geographical names in Afghanistan by converting Arabic emphatic consonants to their non-emphatic forms. This tendency was particularly apparent during the Soviet occupation, but appears to be less strong under the Taliban and Karzai governments.

3.2.1.5.7 Word Division

Word division is less standardized in modern Persian than in certain other languages. There is more variation in whether certain official geographic names are written with or without a word break (i.e. as one or as two words). BGN policy for word division in Afghan Persian is that word division in romanized forms follows the word division in the Persian source script (see BGN/PCGN 1958 Persian Romanization System, 2006 Revision). However, in accordance with the Geographic Names Standardization Policy for Iran, version 2.3 (346 FNC, 10 January 2006), when the following elements (Table 4) occur as the second element of an Afghan Persian place name, the approved romanized form is written as one word.

Table 4: Geographic Name Elements Written without Word Break

<i>Native Form</i>	<i>Transliteration</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
آباد	ābād	<i>place</i>
آن	ān	<i>(plural marker)</i>
ابی‌آس	āsīāb	<i>mill</i>
گاه	gāh	<i>place</i>
ها	hā	<i>(plural marker)</i>
خان	khān	<i>ruler</i>
خانه	khānah	<i>house</i>
نو	now	<i>new</i>
ی‌سرا	sarāy	<i>inn</i>
شاه	shāh	<i>king</i>
شهر	shahr	<i>city</i>
زاده	zādah	<i>progeny</i>

3.2.1.5.8 Short Vowels in Persian Names of Turkic Etymology

In Persian-language Afghan names of Uzbek or Turkmen etymology, when the plural suffix 'lar'/'ler' is found, it shall be Romanized with the vowel 'e' or 'a' according to the rules of Turkic vowel harmony: it shall be Romanized as 'lar' following a syllable containing a back vowel, and 'ler' following a syllable containing a front vowel.

3.2.1.5.9 Names in parentheses

N.A.

3.2.1.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

Afghan dialects of Persian form part of the eastern group of Persian dialects, and blend seamlessly with Tajik on their northern borders. The BGN considers Tajik to be a language, not a dialect, and the language code for Tajik is TKG. The BGN views the Persian spoken in Afghanistan and in Iran to be part of the same language, called Persian, whose language code is FAS. Western dialects of Persian center geographically and culturally around Tehran. The name used by the BGN for this dialect group is Iranian Persian, or Farsi, and its dialect code is PES. The eastern group of Persian dialects is termed Afghan Persian, or Dari, and its dialect code is PRS. See Appendix A for a full list of language codes used by the BGN for Afghan geographical names, and Appendix B for a map of the areas in which the dialects of Persian predominate. This eastern group of dialects, which formed the literary standard for all of Persian during the middle Persian period (c. Twelfth Century), is distinguished from western Persian dialects by a more conservative vocalism, and in particular the persistence of ē, ō, and final –a. (Lazard 1989: 289)

The question of what dialect of Persian to identify as standard for Afghan Persian names is a vexed one. It is perhaps worth quoting Lazard at length on this point:

Without breaking the continuities with the classical forms of the language, the Twentieth Century has witnessed the birth, in the three countries of Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, of new norms more closely aligned with the spoken variants of the language. From this has resulted a set of greater and lesser divergences...

‘Common’ Tajik, the language of writing and education, is close to the dialects of the area around Dushanbe in the center of Tajikistan.... [Common Tajik] is distinguished from the Persian of Iran by numerous phonological, grammatical, lexical, and phraseological features. ...

Written Dari in Afghanistan also reflects certain particularities of spoken Kabuli.... It shares certain features in common with Tajik, not only in the lexicon and the phraseology, but also in its grammar....Modern borrowings come primarily from English.

For Dari Persian of Afghanistan, the question [of whether it is distinct from Iranian Persian] is unclear. The standard form of the language is only slightly different from that of Iran, the orthography is the same, and Iranian influence is strong. Everything will depend on socio-linguistic conditions, of the linguistic policies of the authorities, and of their effects. (Lazard 1989: 290)

Given conflicting evidence of the properties of literary Persian in Afghanistan, BGN policy currently treats the dialect of Kabul as the norm for Afghan Persian, as defined by authorities such as the Editorial Board of the Afghan Encyclopedia. In practical terms, this policy means that one single romanization system is applied to Persian names in Afghanistan and Iran, but that differences in vocalism and the lexicon are permitted between Afghanistan and Iran. Furthermore, the BGN attempts to align its policies on technical treatment of Persian names in Afghanistan with those in Iran, and vice versa, though such alignment may not always be possible.

3.2.2 Pashto

Pashto is an Indo-Iranian language, and a member of the Eastern group of Iranian languages, which also includes such languages as Ossetic (Caucasus), Yaghnobi (Tajikistan), Yazghulami, Shugni, Ishkashmi, Sanglichi, Zebaki,

Wakhi, Munji, Yidgha, Parachi, andOrmuri (all spoken in Afghanistan). The BGN uses ‘Pashto’ as the official name of this language, in contrast to the ISO 639-3 standard name ‘Pushto’. The language code for Pashto is PUS. For a table of language codes in Afghanistan, see Appendix A. For a chart describing the genetic relationships of Pashto and the other languages of Afghanistan, see Appendix C. Pashto is the first language of approximately 45-50% of Afghan citizens. The vast majority of those Pashtuns also understand Dari Persian. The reverse situation does not hold true – most Afghans whose mother tongue is Persian do not understand Pashto. Pashto is also widely spoken in Northwest Frontier Province of Pakistan. See Appendix B for a map of the areas where Pashto is spoken.

3.2.2.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

Pashto became the official language of Afghanistan in 1936, alongside Persian. This status was reaffirmed with the adoption of the new constitution by the Loya Jirga in 2004 (see Section 3.2). In the early days of the Afghan Republic, in spite of its official status, Pashto did not have wide currency within the Afghan government. Most government documents continued to be published in Persian, which had a higher status in elite culture. Over time, that situation has begun to change, and more of the business of government is being carried out in Pashto (see, for example, various multilingual documents on the Afghan Government’s web site, <http://www.af/>).

The use of Pashto in the Afghan administration and daily life has been somewhat hampered by technological considerations. Before the computer age, Pashto typewriters were not widely available, so most typed documents were produced with Iranian or Arabic typewriters, which did not include the eight special Pashto letters. Similarly, in more recent times, Pashto information processing has lagged behind Arabic and Persian technologies; Pashto keyboards are lacking, as are Pashto fonts, and Pashto word-processing applications. These factors have retarded the spread of Pashto on the internet and in publishing.

Both the official and the practical status of Pashto in Afghan mapping mirrors its wider status in Afghan governmental affairs. Early official mapping and gazetteers was produced in Persian, for example the 1948 *Gazetteer of Geographic Names of Afghanistan*, with little attempt to represent Pashto. The situation began to change as early as the 1950’s, when the Royal Afghan Ministry of Mines and Industries (AMMI) commissioned the Pashto Academy in Kabul to produce a Romanization system for geographic names which could represent both Pashto and Persian. The resulting system, termed the AMMI, or Yaghoubi, system, was used in the aerial mapping projects of the 1960’s and 1970’s, including efforts by American interests (the Fairchild Company) and Soviet efforts. Maps produced during this period, which culminated in the production of the *National Atlas of Afghanistan* in 1985, typically record only one name per feature, a Pashto name in Pashto-speaking areas, or a Persian name in majority-Persian areas. The language of the name must be inferred from its characteristics, or from cultural and geographical knowledge. At the same time, the Afghan Ministry of Education produced geographical textbooks in both Persian and in Pashto, which were not a mixture of both languages, and in which geographical names were freely translated between the languages.

The late Twentieth and early Twenty-first Centuries have witnessed a slowdown in official mapping in Afghanistan, resulting from three decades of upheavals, along with a resurgence of Pashtun identity and nationalistic tendencies. As Pashto reasserts itself in all aspects of Afghan life, the BGN expects to see more explicitly Pashto maps and gazetteers, and more Pashto geographical names coequal with their Persian equivalents.

In sum, to date, the Afghan implementation of their own dual-language policy with regard to place names remains unclear. Current BGN policy is that each geographical feature in Afghanistan shall have one official name, either in Pashto, or in Persian, unless good evidence of two distinct names exists.

3.2.2.2 Alphabet and Transcriptions

3.2.2.2.1 Alphabet

The Pashto alphabet in Afghanistan uses a modified form of the Arabic script, and contains eight additional consonants not present in standard Arabic, as well as two additional vowel characters and an additional vowel point. The special Pashto letters are shown below in Table 5:

Table 5: ‘Pure’ Pashto Letters not found in Persian or Arabic

Consonants	ټ	ډ	ړ	ښ	خ	ځ	بن	ږ
	t̪	d̪	r̪	ɳ	ts	dz	<u>sh</u>	<u>zh</u>
Vowels	ی	ې						
	êy	ē						

In Pakistan, Pashto is written using a different alphabet, the Urdu alphabet. However, approved Pashto-script geographical names for Afghanistan (name type = NS) are written in the alphabet shown in Table 5.

The order of letters in the Pashto alphabet varies according to which dictionary one follows. The BGN uses the following sort order for the Pashto alphabet, shown in Table 6.

Table 6. BGN-Recognized Pashto Alphabet Order

Position	Letter	Name	Position	Letter	Name	Position	Letter	Name
1	ا	alêf	16	ذ	zāl	31	ف	fē
2	آ	alêf maddah	17	ر	rē	32	ق	qaf
3	ب	bē	18	ړ	r̄ē	33	ك	kāf
4	پ	pē	19	ز	zē	34	گ, گي	gāf
5	ت	tē	20	ژ	zhē	35	ل	lām
6	ټ	t̄ē	21	ږ	zh̄ē	36	م	mīm
7	ث	sē	22	س	sīn	37	ن	nūn
8	ج	jīm	23	ش	shīn	38	ښ	ṇūn
9	چ	chē	24	بن	shīn	39	و	wāw
10	ح	hē	25	ص	ṣwāt	40	ه	hē
11	خ	khē	26	ض	ghwdāt	41	ی	ma‘rūfah yē
12	څ	tsē	27	ط	tkhwa	42	ې	majhūlah yē
13	ځ	dzē	28	ظ	zghwa	43	ی	dē tānīs saqīlah

<i>Position</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>Name</i>
								yē
14	د	dāl	29	ع	‘ayn	44	ئ	dê tazkīr saqīlah yē
15	ځ	ḡāl	30	غ	ghayn			

Numerals in Pashto are written using the same Hindi numerals shown in Table 2.

3.2.2.2.2 *Diacritics*

Pashto uses an additional vowel point which is not used in Arabic or Persian, the ‘zwarakay’, or little ‘a’, which represents the short central vowel schwa.

Vowel Point: ټ (ê)

Otherwise, Pashto employs the same diacritics as are used in Dari Persian, including the use of hamzah to represent the Izāfat marker. While these diacritics are rarely written in Afghan sources other than textbooks, they are useful for accurately representing the spelling of a name, and their use follows the recommendations of the UN Group of Experts on Geographic Names in regards to Arabic vowel pointing.

The ring (pandūkay) found beneath the first four special consonant letters listed in Table 5, and which denotes retroflex articulation, is not considered a diacritic, but an integral part of the letter, like the two dots below a yē.

3.2.2.2.3 *Approved Transliteration System*

Approved Afghan geographical names in romanized Pashto (NAME_TYPE = N) are romanized using the BGN/PCGN 1968 System, 2006 Revision. This system can be found in the publication *Romanization Systems and Roman Script Spelling Conventions* (2006), published by the BGN, PCGN, and NGA. For convenience, the transliteration system is included as Appendix F of this document. No letters or letter combinations not found in the BGN/PCGN 1968 System are permitted in approved Pashto names of Afghanistan (see General Rule 3, section 3.2.2.3).

In order to transliterate a name using the BGN/PCGN Pashto system, either pointed (voweled) Pashto script is necessary, or a combination of unvoweled Pashto script plus an official romanized source or dictionary entry is needed. In practice, very few sources have ever been produced in Pashto script with vowel points (see General Rule 2, section 3.2.2.3).

3.2.2.2.4 *Other Transliteration Systems*

Most government-produced sources from Afghanistan before the 1990’s, if they contained romanized names, used the AMMI (Yaghoubi) transliteration system to derive those names. Per FNC 207 (1970), “names derived by the Yakubi system are used only as cross-references.” Refer to Appendix G for conversion rules for deriving BGN/PCGN-approved spellings from names transliterated using the AMMI system. Names derived from sources in AMMI transliteration are considered as unverified, unless an official Pashto-script source is also available for confirmation.

The Afghan Information Management Service (AIMS) also produces maps with romanized names, using a transliteration system which makes no apparent distinction between retroflex and plain obstruents, or between many of the contrastive vowels of Pashto. Names from such sources are not considered approved, and must be converted to the BGN/PCGN Pashto system using additional evidence before approval.

3.2.2.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

General Rule 1. Following FNC 112 (195) for Arabic and Persian (reaffirmed per FNC 2006), Pashto names for which there is no native evidence are not converted to the BGN system unless the etymology is certain but generic terms and particles in such names, where recognizable, are standardized according to the BGN/PCGN Pashto system. Approved romanized forms for generic terms and other common toponymic terms can be found in section 7.

General Rule 2. Since short vowels are typically not explicitly shown in Pashto script, the short vowels of each name need to be reconstructed before the approved form of a romanized Pashto name can be determined. General BGN policy states that, in such cases, the short vowels are to be reconstructed from a dictionary where possible, or from a combination of an official Pashto-script source plus an official romanized source.

General Rule 3. For approved Pashto-language roman-script names in Afghanistan (NAME_TYPE = N), no characters or combinations of characters are permitted which are not found in the BGN/PCGN 1968 Pashto Transliteration System.

General Rule 4. Diacritic marks other than the ones listed in the BGN/PCGN 1968 Pashto Romanization System (Appendix f) are not permitted in official romanized Pashto names for Afghanistan.

General Rule 5. The apostrophe (') and inverted apostrophe (‘) are special symbols, and are permitted in the romanized forms of geographic names. Follow the BGN guidance of March 20, 2006 entitled ‘Guidance on Proper Usage of Quotes’ for correct Unicode encoding of quote characters.

General Rule 6. Uppercase letters in standardized name forms retain diacritics.

General Rule 7. All words of approved Pashto names for Afghanistan shall be in the direct case form, unless there is a grammatical reason within the name itself to use the oblique form of that word. Typically, words which are the object of a postposition are in the oblique case form.

General Rule 8. In determining the approved spelling of a name, literary forms are preferred to dialectal forms.

3.2.2.4 Pronunciation

While the BGN has not traditionally considered pronunciation to be within its purview, general guidance on the pronunciation of Pashto letters and their romanized equivalents is given in Appendix J.

3.2.2.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

3.2.2.5.1 Abbreviations

Abbreviations are rarely found on official sources produced by Afghanistan, though some names may be abbreviated by their first letters on small-scale products, such as the *National Atlas of Afghanistan*, and a few abbreviations are found in the marginalia of Afghan maps. Some abbreviations are also found on Russian-language sources. To determine the standard form of Pashto language names from Russian sources, Russian abbreviations are spelled out fully and then translated to their Pashto equivalents before being transliterated.

3.2.2.5.2 *Generic Terms and Feature Designations*

In Pashto names which contain a generic term in addition to a specific name element, the generic term typically follows the specific, as in Bāzmuḥammad Gwundêy, *Bāzmuḥammad Hill*.

In Pashto names, generic terms are not collected for populated places; terms which could be considered generics are considered part of the specific name.

3.2.2.5.3 *Hyphenation and Capitalization*

Hyphenation is rare in Pashto-script names; however, if a hyphen does occur in an official Pashto name, the hyphen is included in the approved romanized form of the name as well.

For Pashto-language names which contain a compound suffix (*Izāfat*), the *Izāfat* suffix is attached to the preceding word with a hyphen in the approved romanized form of the name. For example, پل علم → Pul-i ‘Alam.

Approved romanized Pashto names for Afghan places are written in upper- and lowercase letters. All name elements are written with an initial uppercase letter, except for the conjunctions ‘wa’ and ‘āw’, meaning *and*, and the various Pashto forms of the Arabic definite article, when the article occurs in non-initial position.

In approved Pashto romanized names, after word-initial ‘ayn or hamzah, the next letter of the name is capitalized.

3.2.2.5.4 *Numbers*

Numerals are rarely found in Pashto geographical names of Afghanistan, though they do occur in street names. When numerals do occur in Pashto-script official names, according to BGN policy, the numeral is written out in Pashto orthography before being transliterated, to derive the approved romanized form.

Knowledge of Pashto numerals is necessary in order to read geographic coordinates from official Afghan maps.

3.2.2.5.5 *Izāfat Compounds*

Though it is not, strictly speaking, a part of the original Pashto morphological system, many Pashto-language names in Afghanistan contain a suffix known as *Izāfat*, used to mark Noun + Noun and Noun + Adjective compounds. In approved Pashto-language names for Afghanistan, the *Izāfat* suffix is romanized according to Note 12 of the BGN/PCGN romanization system for Pashto. In Pashto-language names, it is assumed that no *Izāfat* is present, unless either it is explicitly marked by the use of final hamzah (see sections 3.2.1.2.2 and 3.2.2.2.2 above), or is indicated in an official romanized source.

3.2.2.5.6 Arabic Borrowings

Arabic borrowings are found in some Afghan Pashto geographical names. They can often be recognized by the presence of letters which indicate emphatic consonants in Arabic: ص:ض:ح:ع:ط:ظ:ث. Though they are Arabic words etymologically speaking, in approved romanized Pashto names for Afghanistan, they are romanized using the BGN/PCGN Romanization System for Pashto.

3.2.2.5.7 Word Division

Word division is less standardized in Pashto than in English, in that there is more variation in whether certain geographical names are written with or without word breaks. Word breaks are often written or omitted for stylistic and calligraphic effects. General policy on word division in approved romanized Pashto names for Afghanistan is stated in Note 7 of the BGN/PCGN 1968 Pashto romanization system, 2006 revision, which can be found in Appendix F of this document.

3.2.2.5.8 Short Vowels in Pashto Names of Turkic Etymology

In approved Pashto-language Afghan place names of Uzbek or Turkmen etymology, when the plural suffix lar/lir is found, it shall be Romanized with the vowel ‘i’ or ‘a’ according to the rules of Turkic vowel harmony: viz it shall be Romanized as ‘lar’ following a syllable containing a back vowel (a, ā, ay, u, ū, ow, ūy), and as ‘lir’ following a syllable containing a front vowel (i, ī, ey, ê, ē).

3.2.2.5.9 Names in Parentheses

(Not Applicable)

3.2.2.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

There is wide variation in the dialects of Pashto, on all linguistic levels: from phonetic to syntactic (and presumably semantic). The following statement describes the BGN policy on dialectal variation within Pashto, in determining approved names:

“When evidence for dialect forms has been found, standard literary Persian and Pashto forms are given preference in determining the spellings of geographical names (BGN Gazetteer of Afghanistan, 3rd Edition 1992).”

By ‘standard Pashto,’ the BGN understands the literary dialect of Pashto spoken in the Southwest of the country, centered around Kandahar. The dialect code for this dialect is PBT, and the ISO 639-3 name is Southern Pashto. The other major Pashto dialect is known as Northern Pashto, code PBU, and is spoken in the north and east of Afghanistan, as well as in Pashto-speaking areas of Pakistan. The most noticeable differences between the Southwestern for the purposes of toponymy are the differing pronunciations of the phonemes shown in Table 8 (Penzl 1955: 8).

Table 8: Major Dialectal Differences in Pashto

<i>Pashto Letter</i>	<i>Southern Pashto Pronunciation</i>	<i>Northern Pashto Pronunciation</i>
ښ	voiceless retroflex sibilant [ʂ]	voiceless velar fricative [x]
ږ	voiced retroflex sibilant [ʐ]	voiced velar stop [g]
خ	[ts]	[s]

ځ	[dz]	[z]
ی (ma ‘rūfah yē)	[ay]	[i]

Particularly when working from romanized sources in areas of Afghanistan which speak Northern Pashto, care should be taken to ensure that Southern Pashto spellings are used for approved names. Non-standard dialectal forms of Pashto geographical names are treated as variants (NAME_TYPE = VS, V).

3.3 *Minority Languages*

The minority languages listed below are either spoken as a first language by 100,000 or more persons within Afghanistan, or are listed in the 2004 Afghan Constitution, or are deemed of special interest to the BGN. For more information on these languages, see appendices A, B, and C. Language names are taken from ISO 639-3, and the source for all population figures is *Ethnologue*.

3.3.1 **Aimaq**

Aimaq is an Indo-Iranian language, most closely related to Persian, Hazaragi, and Tajik, spoken primarily in Ghowr Province in central Afghanistan. Its language code is AIQ. It is spoken as a first language by approximately 480,000 people.

3.3.1.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Aimaq as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Aimaq. Aimaq-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.1.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.1.2.1 Alphabets

Unknown.

3.3.1.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.1.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

None.

3.3.1.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

Unknown.

3.3.1.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

Not available.

3.3.1.4 Pronunciation

Not available.

3.3.1.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

Not available.

3.3.1.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

Unknown.

3.3.2 Ashkun

Ashkun is a member of the Nurestani Group of languages, within the Indo-Iranian language family. It is spoken as a first language by several thousand people in Nurestān, Konar Province. The language code for Ashkun is ASK.

3.3.2.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Ashkun as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Ashkun. Ashkun-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.2.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.2.2.1 Alphabets

Unknown.

3.3.2.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.2.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

None.

3.3.2.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

A transcription system for the Nurestani languages has been developed by Professor Richard Strand (<http://users.sedona.net/~strand/Nuristani/nuristanis.html>). The system uses capital letters

to mark retroflex consonants, and uses a tilde to mark nasalization. It uses c with cedilla to mark a voiceless palatal affricate, and \$ to mark a voiceless palatal fricative.

3.3.2.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.2.4 Pronunciation

N/A.

3.3.2.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

N/A.

3.3.2.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

Unknown.

3.3.3 Brahui

Brahui is a Dravidian language, from the Northern Group of the Dravidian languages, and thus related genetically to languages of South India such as Tamil, though it has been greatly influenced by Baluchi. It is spoken by approximately 200,000 speakers as a first language in Afghanistan, and by additional speakers in Pakistan. Its usage in Afghanistan is centered around the southern parts of Kandahār and Helmand provinces. The language code for Brahui is BRH.

3.3.3.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Brahui as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Brahui. Brahui-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.3.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.3.2.1 Alphabets

Unknown.

3.3.3.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.3.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

None.

3.3.3.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

Unknown.

3.3.3.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.3.4 Pronunciation

N/A.

3.3.3.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

N/A.

3.3.3.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

N/A.

3.3.4 Baluchi

Baluchi is an Indo-Iranian language, member of the Western Group, and most closely related to the languages in the Persian Group. It is spoken by approximately 200,000 persons as a first language in Afghanistan, and by many more speakers in Iran and Pakistan. Its use in Afghanistan centers around the southern regions of Kandahār and Helmand Provinces. The language code for Baluchi is BAL. Following ISO 639-3, the BGN name for this language is spelled Baluchi.

3.3.4.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Baluchi as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Baluchi. Baluchi-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings. In the event that a Baluchi name is available for a feature in Afghanistan for which a Persian or Pashto name is not available, the Baluchi name is treated as an unverified spelling.

3.3.4.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.4.2.1 Alphabets

Baluchi in Afghanistan is written in a form of the Pashto alphabet (Elfenbein 1989:352). Baluchi in Pakistan is written using the Urdu alphabet.

3.3.4.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.4.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

The BGN is currently in the process of developing recommendations on Baluchi transliteration.

3.3.4.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

The only transliteration system for Baluchi of which the BGN is aware is Barker and Mengal's 1969 system. It has similar characteristics to Barker's Urdu system. It is phonemic; uses no digraphs; uses tildes over vowels to mark nasalization; does not distinguish Arabic emphatic consonants; uses capitalization to mark retroflexion; and prefers monographs for affricates and fricatives, over digraphs.

3.3.4.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.4.4 Pronunciation

Pronunciation of Baluchi resembles that of Urdu, but a pronunciation guide awaits the approval of a romanization system.

3.3.4.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

Baluchi, like other Indo-Iranian languages, distinguishes between two cases: direct and oblique. Approved toponym elements are in the direct case, unless they are the object of a postposition, in which case they are in oblique form.

3.3.4.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

Baluchi speakers in Afghanistan largely belong to the Rakhshānī dialect group. However, no dialect codes are currently approved for Baluchi names.

3.3.5 Hazaragi

Hazaragi is an Indo-Iranian language, most closely related to the other members of the Persian group, Aimaq, Persian, and Tajik. It is spoken as a first language by almost two million speakers within Afghanistan, centered in Bāmyān, Ghowr, and Day Kondī provinces. The language code for Hazaragi is HAZ.

3.3.5.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Hazaragi as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Hazaragi.

Hazaragi-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.5.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.5.2.1 Alphabets

Unknown.

3.3.5.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.5.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

None.

3.3.5.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

Unknown.

3.3.5.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.5.4 Pronunciation

The development of a pronunciation guide for Hazaragi names awaits the adoption of a romanization system.

3.3.5.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

N/A.

3.3.5.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

Unknown.

3.3.6 Kamviri

Kamviri is a member of the Nurestani Group of languages, within the Indo-Iranian language family. It is spoken as a first language by several thousand people in Nurestān, Konar Province. The language code for Kamviri is XVI.

3.3.6.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Kamviri as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Kamviri.

Kamviri-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.6.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.6.2.1 Alphabets

Unknown.

3.3.6.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.6.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

None.

3.3.6.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

A transcription system for the Nurestani languages has been developed by Professor Richard Strand (<http://users.sedona.net/~strand/Nuristani/nuristanis.html>). The system uses capital letters to mark retroflex consonants, and uses a tilde to mark nasalization. It uses c with cedilla to mark a voiceless palatal affricate, and \$ to mark a voiceless palatal fricative.

3.3.6.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.6.4 Pronunciation

The development of a pronunciation guide for Kamviri awaits the adoption of a romanization system or roman-script orthography.

3.3.6.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

N/A.

3.3.6.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

N/A.

3.3.7 Kati

Kati is a member of the Nurestani Group of languages, within the Indo-Iranian language family. It is spoken as a first language by fifteen thousand people in Nurestān, Konar Province. The language code for Kati is BSH.

3.3.7.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Kati as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Kati. Kati-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.7.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.7.2.1 Alphabets

Unknown.

3.3.7.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.7.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

None.

3.3.7.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

A transcription system for the Nurestani languages has been developed by Professor Richard Strand (<http://users.sedona.net/~strand/Nuristani/nuristanis.html>). The system uses capital letters to mark retroflex consonants, and uses a tilde to mark nasalization. It uses c with cedilla to mark a voiceless palatal affricate, and \$ to mark a voiceless palatal fricative.

3.3.7.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.7.4 Pronunciation

The development of a pronunciation guide for Kati awaits the adoption of an official romanization system or roman-script orthography.

3.3.7.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

N/A.

3.3.7.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics.

Unknown.

3.3.8 Pashayi

The genetic classification of Pashayi is unclear: *Ethnologue* assigns it to the Dardic Group of the Indo-Iranian language family, whereas Richard Strand assigns it to the Indo-Aryan Group of the same family. It is spoken as a first language by approximately 108,000 speakers in Afghanistan, mostly centered in Konar Province. There is no approved language code for Pashayi; instead language codes for the four Pashayi dialects are available: Northeast Pashayi (AEE), Northwest Pashayi (GLH), Southeast Pashayi (PSI), and Southwest Pashayi (PSH). The BGN has requested the creation of a macro-language code for Pashayi within ISO 639-3, but the request is pending.

3.3.8.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Pashayi as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Pashayi. Pashayi-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.8.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.8.2.1 Alphabets

Unknown.

3.3.8.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.8.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

None.

3.3.8.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

Unknown.

3.3.8.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.8.4 Pronunciation

Unknown.

3.3.8. Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

N/A.

3.3.8.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

Unknown.

3.3.9 Prasuni

Prasuni is a member of the Nurestani Group within the Indo-Iranian language family. It is thus most closely related to the other Nurestani languages, Ashkun, Kamviri, Kati, Tregami, and Waigali. It is spoken in Nurestān, Konar Province, by approximately a thousand speakers. The language code for Prasuni is PRN.

3.3.9.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Prasuni as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Prasuni. Prasuni-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.9.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.9.2.1 Alphabets

Unknown.

3.3.9.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.9.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

None.

3.3.9.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

A transcription system for the Nurestani languages has been developed by Professor Richard Strand (<http://users.sedona.net/~strand/Nuristani/nuristanis.html>). The system uses capital letters to mark retroflex consonants, and uses a tilde to mark nasalization. It uses c with cedilla to mark a voiceless palatal affricate, and \$ to mark a voiceless palatal fricative.

3.3.9.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.9.4 Pronunciation

A pronunciation guide for Prasuni awaits the adoption of a romanization system or roman-script orthography.

3.3.9.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

N/A.

3.3.9.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

Unknown.

3.3.10 Tajik

Tajik is a member of the Persian Group within the Indo-Iranian language family. It is closely related to, and to some extent mutually intelligible with, Persian, both Afghan (Dari) and Iranian (Farsi) dialects. It is spoken as a first language by an unknown number of persons, in the northeast part of Afghanistan. The language code for Tajik is TKG.

3.3.10.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Tajik as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official Afghan cartography in Tajik. Tajik-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings. Afghan geographic features for which only sources from Tajikistan are available would be considered to have unverified names (NAME_TYPE = DS, D).

3.3.10.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.10.2.1 Alphabets

In Afghanistan, Tajik is written using the Dari alphabet, unlike in Tajikistan, where it is written in Cyrillic.

3.3.10.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.10.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

Tajik place names in Afghanistan, when written in the Dari orthography, are transliterated using the BGN/PCGN 1958 Persian romanization system, in order to derive an approved romanized form.

3.3.10.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

Should a Tajik name be encountered for a feature in Afghanistan written in Tajik Cyrillic, it would be romanized using the BGN/PCGN romanization system for Tajik.

3.3.10.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

General rules for Tajik geographical names are the same as those for Persian names in Afghanistan (section 3.2.1.3 above).

3.3.10.4 Pronunciation

The Afghan Persian pronunciation guide in Appendix H may be used for Tajik names.

3.3.10.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

Rules for technical treatment of Tajik names in Afghanistan are the same as those for Persian names in Afghanistan: see section 3.2.1.5 above.

3.3.10.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

Unknown.

3.3.11 Tregami

Tregami is a member of the Nurestani Group within the Indo-Iranian language family. It is thus most closely related to the other Nurestani languages, Ashkun, Kamviri, Kati, Prasuni, and Waigali. It is spoken in Nurestān, Konar Province, by approximately a thousand speakers. The language code for Tregami is TRM.

3.3.11.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Tregami as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Tregami. Tregami-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.11.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.11.2.1 Alphabets

Unknown.

3.3.11.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.11.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

None.

3.3.11.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

A transcription system for the Nurestani languages has been developed by Professor Richard Strand (<http://users.sedona.net/~strand/Nuristani/nuristanis.html>). The system uses capital letters to mark retroflex consonants, and uses a tilde to mark nasalization. It uses c with cedilla to mark a voiceless palatal affricate, and \$ to mark a voiceless palatal fricative.

3.3.11.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.11.4 Pronunciation

The development of a pronunciation guide for Tregami awaits the adoption of a romanization system or a roman-script orthography.

3.3.11.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

N/A.

3.3.11.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

N/A.

3.3.12 Turkmen

Turkmen is a Turkic language, member of the Oghuz (Western) Group of Turkic languages, and most closely related to Azeri and Turkish. It is spoken in Afghanistan as a first language by approximately 500,000 persons, near the border with Turkmenistan. The language code for Turkmen is TUK. In the event that a Turkmen name is available for a feature in Iran for which a Persian name is not available, the Turkmen name is treated as an unverified spelling.

3.3.12.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Turkmen as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official Afghan cartography in Turkmen. Turkmen-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.12.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.12.2.1 Alphabets

Within Afghanistan, Turkmen is written both using a modified form of the Arabic script, as well as using Turkmen Cyrillic.

3.3.12.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.12.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

There is no approved romanization system for Afghan Turkmen names written in Arabic script. For Afghan Turkmen names written in Cyrillic script, the BGN/PCGN Turkmen Cyrillic Table of Correspondences is approved.

3.3.12.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

Unknown.

3.3.12.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.12.4 Pronunciation

No pronunciation guide for Afghan Turkmen names has been developed.

3.3.12.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

When a Turkmen possessive suffix (i, u, si, su) is used in a compound, the Persian ezāfat ending is not also written.

3.3.12.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

Unknown.

3.3.13 Uzbek

Uzbek is a Turkic language, and a member of the Eastern Group of Turkic languages. It is most closely related to other Eastern Turkic languages such as Uighur. It is spoken in Afghanistan as a first language by 1.4 million persons, in the regions around Meymanah and Mazār-e Sharīf. The language code for Uzbek is UZB.

3.3.13.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Uzbek as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Uzbek. Uzbek-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.13.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.13.2.1 Alphabets

Uzbek in Afghanistan is written using a modified form of the Arabic script.

3.3.13.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.13.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

There is no approved romanization system for Uzbek names written in Arabic script in Afghanistan. For Afghan Uzbek names written in Cyrillic script, the BGN/PCGN Uzbek Cyrillic Table of Correspondences is approved.

3.3.13.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

Unknown.

3.3.13.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.13.4 Pronunciation

N/A.

3.3.13.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

N/A.

3.3.13.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics.

Unknown.

3.3.14 Waigali

Waigali is a member of the Nurestani Group within the Indo-Iranian language family. It is thus most closely related to the other Nurestani languages, Ashkun, Kamviri, Kati, Prasuni, and Tregami. It is spoken in Nurestān, Konar Province, by approximately fifteen hundred speakers. The language code for Waigali is WBK.

3.3.14.1 Legal Situation and Practical Application in Administration and Official Cartography

While the Afghan Constitution of 2004 theoretically provides for the use of Waigali as a third official language in areas where it predominates, the BGN is not aware of any official cartography in Waigali. Waigali-language names for Afghanistan, should they be encountered, would be treated as variant spellings.

3.3.14.2 Alphabet and Transcription

3.3.14.2.1 Alphabets

Unknown.

3.3.14.2.2 Diacritics

Unknown.

3.3.14.2.3 Approved Transliteration System

None.

3.3.14.2.4 Other Transliteration Systems

A transcription system for the Nurestani languages has been developed by Professor Richard Strand (<http://users.sedona.net/~strand/Nuristani/nuristanis.html>). The system uses capital letters to mark retroflex consonants, and uses a tilde to mark nasalization. It uses c with cedilla to mark a voiceless palatal affricate, and \$ to mark a voiceless palatal fricative.

3.3.14.3 General Spelling Rules for Geographical Names

N/A.

3.3.14.4 Pronunciation

N/A.

3.3.14.5 Technical Treatment of Geographic Names

N/A.

3.3.14.6 Distribution of Main Dialects and their Characteristics

Unknown.

4. Names Authorities and Names Standardization

4.1 National Names Authorities: Aims, functions, rules, address

There is no legal names authority in Afghanistan under the framework of its 2004 Consitution. While the BGN originally recognized the Pashto Academy of the University of Kabul as the names authority for Afghanistan, the BGN now recognizes the Afghan Cartographic Institute Head Office (AGCHO) in Kabul as the *de facto* names authority. AGCHO appears to have subsumed the earlier Afghan Cartographic Institute (ACI), which produced official maps through the 1980s. AGCHO has been serving as the *de facto* names authority for many years, and considers itself as such.

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has produced gazetteers of populated places in Afghanistan for many years. The BGN does not consider the CSO as a names authority for Afghanistan, though it may be recognized as more authoritative in the future.

The Afghan Information Management Service (AIMS) is by definition not recognized by the BGN as a names authority, because it is an non-governmental organization, though it does distribute cartographic products, and there is some degree of coordination between AIMS and AGCHO.

4.2 Provincial Names Authorities: Aims, functions, rules, addresses

There are no nationally-recognized provincial names authorities in Afghanistan, neither is there any formal framework for local-level names standardization. However, AGCHO decisions seem to require some approval at the district level, and there appears to be a *de facto* place name collection and approval activity in parts of the country.

Many quasi-official name changes in recent years have been carried out by provincial governors, but the legality of these changes is disputed by AGCHO.

4.3 Names standardization: Legal aspects, procedures, progress

A national toponymic database for Afghanistan is currently in the planning stages. AGCHO is attempting to reassert its status as the names authority, after a hiatus during the war years. AGCHO expects a national names commission to be named by law in the near future. AGCHO also wishes to participate in UN geographical names standardization activities, but has not done so for many years.

5. Political Geographic Policy

5.1. Country name

<i>Name Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Language</i>
Conventional short form	Afghanistan	English
Conventional long form	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (the)	English
Native short form	افغانستان Afghānestān	Persian
	افغانستان Afghānistān	Pashto
Native long form	جُمْهُورِيّ اِسْلَامِيّ افغانِستان Jomhūrī-ye Eslāmī-ye Afghānestān	Persian
	د افغانستان اسلامي جمهوریت Dê Afghānistān Islāmī Jumhūrīyat	Pashto

5.2 First-order administrative divisions and FIPS codes

The BGN recognizes the Velāyat (Persian) / Wilāyat (Pashto), or ‘province’, as the first-order administrative division in Afghanistan. The BGN recognizes both the Lūy Volosvālī (Persian) / Lūy Wolêswālī (Pashto) and the Volosvālī (Persian) / Wolêswālī (Pashto) as second-order administrative divisions. The BGN recognizes the ‘Alaqadarī as the third-order administrative division for Afghanistan.

<i>Approved Persian/Pashto Script Name</i>	<i>Approved Pashto Script Name*</i>	<i>Approved Romanized Persian</i>	<i>Approved Romanized Pashto</i>	<i>Provincial Seat (Persian/Pashto)</i>	<i>FIPS 10 Code</i>
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* If different from Persian name.

<i>Approved Persian/Pashto Script Name</i>	<i>Approved Pashto Script Name*</i>	<i>Approved Romanized Persian</i>	<i>Approved Romanized Pashto</i>	<i>Provincial Seat (Persian/Pashto)</i>	<i>FIPS 10 Code</i>
بَدَخْشَان	-	Badakhshān		Feyzābād / Fayzābād	AF01
بادْغِيس	-	Bādghīs		Qal'ah-ye Now / Qal'ah-yi Naw	AF02
بَغْلَان	-	Baghlān		Pol-e Khomrī / Pul-i Khumrī	AF03
بَلْخ	-	Balkh		Mazār-e Sharīf / Mazār-i Sharīf	AF30
بَامِيَان	-	Bāmyān		Bāmyān / Bāmyān	AF05
دای کُنْدی	دای کُندي	Dāy Kondī	Dāy Kundī	Dāy Kondī / Dāy Kundī	
فَرَاه	-	Farāh		Farāh	AF06
فَارْيَاب	-	Fāryāb		Meymanah / Maymanah	AF07
غَزْنِي	غَزْني	Ghaznī		Ghaznī	AF08
غُور	-	Ghowr		Chaghcharān	AF09
هَلْمَنْد	-	Helmand	Hilmand	Lashkargāh	AF10
هَرَات	-	Herāt	Hirāt	Herāt / Hirāt	AF11
جَوَزْجَان	-	Javzjān	Jawzjān	Shebarghān / Shibarghān	AF31
کَابُل	کابل	Kābol	Kābêl	Kābol / Kābêl	AF13
کَنْدَهَار	-	Kandahār		Kandahār	AF23
کاپيسا	-	Kāpīsā		Maḥmūd-e Rāqī / Maḥmūd-i Rāqī	AF14
خُوسْت	-	Khowst		Khowst	AF37
کُنَر	-	Konar	Kunar	As'adābād	AF34
کُنْدُز	-	Kondoz	Kunduz	Kondoz / Kunduz	AF24
لَغْمَان	-	Laghmān		Mehtarlām / Mihtarlām	AF35
لُوگر	-	Lowgar	Lowgar	Pol-e 'Alam / Pul-i 'Alam	AF17
نَنْگَرَهَار	-	Nangarhār		Jalālābād	AF18
نِیْمُرُوز	-	Nīmrūz		Zaranj	AF19
نُورِستان	-	Nūrestān	Nūristān	Nūrestān / Nūristān	AF38
اُرُوزْگَان	-	Orowzgān	Urowzgān	Tarīnkowt	AF20

<i>Approved Persian/Pashto Script Name</i>	<i>Approved Pashto Script Name*</i>	<i>Approved Romanized Persian</i>	<i>Approved Romanized Pashto</i>	<i>Provincial Seat (Persian/Pashto)</i>	<i>FIPS 10 Code</i>
پکتیا	-	Paktiā		Gardeyz / Gardēz	AF36
پکتیکا	-	Paktīkā		Sharan	AF29
پنجشیر	پنجشیر	Panjshīr	Panjshēr	Bāzarak	
پروان	-	Parvān	Parwān	Chārīkār	AF22
سمنگان	-	Samangān		Eybak / Aybak	AF32
سر پل	-	Sar-e Pol	Sar-i Pul	Sar-e Pol / Sar-i Pul	AF33
تخار	-	Takhār		Tāloqān / Tāluqān	AF26
وردک	-	Vardak	Wardak	Meydān-e Shahr / Maydan-i Shahr	AF27
زابل	-	Zābol	Zābul	Qalāt	AF28

5.3 Conventional Names

As of March 22, 2006, the following conventional names had been approved by the BGN for features within Afghanistan.

Afghanistan
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (the)
Hindu Kush
Kabul

5.4 Optional long- and short-form names

All first-order administrative divisions are accorded both long- and short-form names, in both official languages of Afghanistan; e.g., Helmand [short form]; Velāyat-e Helmand [long form, which includes the generic Velāyat-e, meaning 'province of']. Lower-order administrative divisions may also be accorded optional short forms. Certain rivers in Afghanistan are also accorded optional short forms. Names of railroad stations that appear on official sources with the generic term *Īstgāh* are given both long- and short-form names as supported by official evidence.

5.5 International Boundaries and their Implications for Geographic Names

For basic background on the international boundaries of Afghanistan with surrounding states, users should consult the following United States Department of State *International Boundary Study* publications:

- No. 6 Afghanistan - Iran (June 1961)
- No. 26 Afghanistan - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (September 1983; this study covers the boundary between Afghanistan and present-day Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan)
- No. 89 Afghanistan - China (May 1969)

The Department of State did not publish an *International Boundary Study* covering the Afghanistan-Pakistan boundary.

5.5.1 Disputed Names

The BGN is not aware of any names disputed between Afghanistan and its neighbors.

5.5.2 Disputed Territories

While there are minor differences of interpretation in the placement of some of Afghanistan's boundaries with its neighboring countries, particularly in the case of Afghanistan-Pakistan and Afghanistan-China, the BGN is not aware of any naming disputes that arise because of those differences. For the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, termed the 'Durand Line' after its original British surveyor, some parties argue that the effectivity of the Durand Line has terminated, but US policy states that this border is *de jure*, hence no naming problems are known to arise from this issue.

5.5.3 Demilitarized Zones

There are no demilitarized zones in Afghanistan.

5.5.4 United Nations-Controlled Territories

There are no United Nations-controlled territories in Afghanistan.

5.5.5 Non-defined Boundaries

There are no non-defined boundaries in Afghanistan.

5.5.6 Riverine Boundaries

While certain of its international boundaries follow the course of watercourses, the BGN is not aware of any naming disputes that arise as a result (see also 5.3.2).

5.5.7 Other Unusual Boundary Issues

For further information on Afghanistan's international boundaries, please see the Department of State Boundaries OSIS web site: <http://base.us-state.osis.gov/>.

6. Source Material

6.1 Maps and Map Series containing Approved Names

Since geographic names within Afghanistan have not been standardized by the Afghan authorities, no one source of names can be considered official. Instead, preponderance of evidence is used to determine the most authoritative native-script spelling of each name. Preponderance of evidence from romanized sources is also used to determine the most authoritative spellings of the short vowels and word divisions of each geographical name.

6.1.1. *Atlās Jumhūrī Demowkrātīk Afghānestān*

Geokart (1985a). *اتلس جمهورى دموکراتیک افغانستان* *Atlās Jumhūrī Demowkrātīk Afghānestān* (National Atlas of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan). Warsaw: Wojskowe Zakłady Kartograficzne.

Names in this atlas, in Dari Persian script, were approved by the Afghan Cartographic Head Office, who co-produced the volume.

6.1.2. *AGCHO Topographic Line Maps*

Afghan Geodesy and Cartography Head Office Topographic Line Maps, various scales. These maps were produced at scales of 1:25,000, 1:50,000, and 1:100,000, as well as at smaller scales, by AGCHO and its predecessor organizations from the late 1970s until approximately 1985. They are either biscriptual (Dari script and AMMI romanizations) or in unvowelled Dari Persian script.

6.2 *Gazetteers Containing Approved Names*

6.2.1. *AGCHO 2006 Villages List*

Gazetteer of official names of populated places containing approximately 40,000 entries, reviewed by AGCHO, in Dari Persian script, unvowelled.

6.2.2. *A Provisional Gazetteer of Afghanistan.*

Afghanistan Central Statistics Office. (1975). *A Provisional Gazetteer of Afghanistan*. Kabul: Idārah-e Markaz-e Ihsa'iyay. Puruzhih-ye Mutala'at-e Dīmūgrāfi (Central Statistics Office, Prime Ministry).

6.3 *Maps and Map Series containing Unverified Names*

6.3.1 National Atlas of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan

National Atlas of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Warsaw: Wojskowe Zakłady Kartograficzne.

Names in this atlas, in Yaghoubi (AMMI) Romanized form, are considered unverified, but are approved for use in reconstructing vowelings for approved names where only unvoweled Persian or Pashto script is available.

6.3.2. Fairchild Aerial Surveys Topographic Line Maps

1:50,000 Series and 1:100,000 Series

Produced by the American firm Fairchild during the early 1960s, based on aerial surveys done under contract to the Afghan Government. The names on these maps are in the AMMI (Yaghoubi) transliteration system, and require application of the Yaghoubi conversion guide in Appendix G to derive the approved form.

6.3.3. Soviet General Staff Maps

Various scales (1:50,000; 1:100,000; 1:200,000; 1:500,000)

Produced from the 1960's up until the late 1980s and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, in Cyrillic, generally including transliteration of the native name, plus a translation of the generic (double generic).

6.3.4. Islamic Republic of Iran Topographic Line Maps

1:250,000 Series.

6.3.5. Survey of Pakistan Topographic Line Maps

1:50,000 and 1:250,000 Series.

6.4 Gazetteers Containing Unverified Names

6.4.1 *Slovar' Geograficheskikh Nazvaniy Afganistana.*

Glavnoye Upravleniye Geodeziy i Kartografiy Pri Sovete Ministrov SSSR. (1988). *Slovar' Geograficheskikh Nazvaniy Afganistana*. Moscow.

Names in this gazetteer, produced during the Soviet occupation, are presented in Persian and Pashto script, as well as in Cyrillic and in Yaghoubi romanizations. While the gazetteer is not considered a source of approved names, it can be used to reconstruct vowelings when only unvoweled Persian or Pashto script is available.

6.4.2 *Qāmūs-e A'lām-e Joghṛāfyā'ī Afghānistān*

Afghanistan. Encyclopedia Editorial Board. (1948). قاموس اعلام جغرافیائی افغانستان *Qāmūs-e A'lām-e Joghṛāfyā'ī Afghānistān* (A Gazetteer of Geographic Names Afghanistan). Kabul: General Printing House.

6.5 Other Map Series

6.5.1. National Geographic Atlas of the World.

6.5.2. NGA Topographic Line Maps

1:50,000 Series (K735, U711, U722) and 1:100,000 Series (U611).

6.6 Other Gazetteers

Not Applicable

7. Glossary of Geographic Terms

7.1 Generic Terms (*Appelatives*)

English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
(man-made) pool or reservoir	ډنډو	dand	m	تالاب	tālāb
airport	هوائی ډگر	hawā'ī dēgar	m	میدان هوائی	meydān-e havā'ī
alluvial silt or sediment	خمره	khērāh	f	آبرفت	ābroft
alternate romanization (see shākh)				شخ	shakh
area (of); zone (of)	سیمه	sīmah	f	منطقه	manṭaqah
arid farming land	لمی	lalmī	m/f	کشتزار خشکی	keshtzār-e khowshek
arroyo, watercourse, rocky or sandy dry stream bed	خورد	khwaṛ	m	شيله	sheylah
arroyo; narrow, shallow gully	غبرگه	ghbargah	f	شيله	sheylah
border post	سرحدی	sarḥadī	f	پوسته	powstah-ye sarḥadī

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
border post	پوښته			سَرخَدی	
(near Pakistan border)	سَرخَدی	sarḥadī powstah	f	پوښته	powstah-ye sarḥadī
brook, rivulet,	پوښته			سَرخَدی	
stream, drain,	ناله	nālah	f	جوئ	jowī
canal					
brook, stream					
(fast moving & shallow);	ویاله	wīālah	f	جوی	jowī
irrigation ditch					
camp, refugee camp	کمپ	kamp	m	کمپ	kamp
canal, ravine; river valley	ناوه	nāwah	f	وادی	vādī
caravanserai (inn for travelers)	رباط	rabāṭ	m	رباط	robāṭ
cattle pen, ranch	بانده	bāṇdah	f	گاداری	gāvdārī
cave	سمخ	smats	f	غار	ghār
cave, pit	سمخ	smats	f	غار	ghār
cemetery, graveyard	هدیره	hadīrah	f	قبرستان	qabrestān
clan (in	خپل	khēl	m	خیل	kheyl

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
composite word, is the area or village of a clan)					
cliff, precipice	ګرنگ	garang	m	شاخ	shākh
cliff, precipice; ravine, gorge	خکه	tsakah	f	شاخ	shākh
creek	مانده	māndēh	m	شېله	sheylah
dam	بند	band	m	بند	band
ditch; gully, ravine, watercourse	کده	kandah	f	خندق	khandaq
door, gate	دروازه	darwāzah	f	دروازه	darwāzah
embankment, mound, parapet; moat	خاکریز	khākrēz	m	خاکریز	khākreyz
factory	فابریکه	fābrīkah	f	فابریکه	fābrīkah
fast moving, narrow, shallow stream, creek, or gully	سای	sāy	m	شېله, وادی	sheylah, vādī
fast moving, narrow, shallow stream, creek, or	شېله	shēlah	f	شېله	sheylah

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
gully	میدان	maydān	m	میدان	meydān
field, plain, area	میدان	maydān	m	میدان	meydān
fissure, chasm, gully, ravine	ځنډه	kandarah	f	خندق	khandaq
floodwaters	سپلاوي اوبه	sēlāwī owbēh	f	آب سیلاب	āb-e seylāb
floodwaters;					
mountain	توی	towy	m	جوى	jowī
stream, brook					
flower garden, grass, lawn	چمن	chaman	m	چمن	chaman
fold (terrain term)	کوتول	kowtawēl		چین	chīn
foothill,					
mountainside, hillside, slope	راغه	rāghēh	m	دامنه	dāmanah
ford, crossing;					
path (also					
written gowdar /	گذر	gudar	m	گذر	gozar
گودر /					
گذر					
ford; bottom of pond, river, etc.	کول	kowl	m	پایاب	pāyāb

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
ford; ditch; dry water course	جر	jar	m	جر	jar
fort, castle; (can mean village)	کلا	kalā	f	قلعه	qal'ah
fort, stronghold; hill fort	کوت	kowt	m	کوت	kowt
frontier or border post; police post	تهانه	tahānah	f	تهانه	tahānah
glacier	یکچال	yakhchāl	m	یکچال	yakhchāl
glen or canyon; valley	دره	darah	f	دره	darah
gorge, narrow gorge, defile, ravine, mountain pass	تنگی	tangay	m	تنگی	tangī
gorge, ravine, dry watercourse	کند	kand	m	خندق	khandaq
gorge; stream in gorge	ناو	nāw	m	شيله	sheylah
grassland, meadow	ورشو	wérshow	f	چمنزار	chamanzār
grave, tomb	قبر	qabr	m	گور	gowr
gravel	شگه	shêgah	f	سنگ ریزه	sang reyzah

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
hamlet	باندۀ	bāndah	f	دِهک	dehak
head (or peak)	سر	sar	m	سَر	sar
herd	رَمَه	ramah	f	رَمَه	ramah
herd (of mares?)	میا	mayā	f	رَمَه	ramah
hill	غونډۍ	ghūndēy	f	تپه	tapah
hill, mound	پښته	puṣhtah	f	تل	tal
hill, small mountain	پوتۍ	powṭay	m	تپه	tapah
hill; land not planted	توره	tūrah	f	تپه	tapah
hillock, knoll, mound; a low hill	ختې	khēt	m	تپه کُوجک	tapah-ye kowchak
hillock, knoll, mound; a low hill	موره	mowrah	f	تپه کُوجک	tapah-ye kowchak
hole (in high mountain wall), gap, cleave, crevice, (i.e., passage, defile)	سورۍ	sūray	m	سوراخ	sūrākh
home, house	کور	kowr	m	خانه	khānah
home, house	کور	kowr	m	خانه	khānah

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
irrigation canal (originally, a stream); stream; river	ویاله	wiālêh	f	نهر	nahr
irrigation canal; stream, brook, small stream, rivulet	واله	wâlêh	f	نهر	nahr
lake	قول	qûl	m	قؤل	qowl
large river	سیند	sînd	m	رود	rowd
lower slopes, foothills; plain; summer pasture	دامان	dāmān	m	دامنه	dāmanah
marsh, bog	جبه	jabah	f	جبه زار	jabahzār
meadow, lawn, flower garden	چمن	chaman	m	چمن	chaman
mill, water mill	ژړنده	zhrandah	f	آسیاب	āsyāb
mill, water mill	ژړنده	zhrandah	f	آسیاب	āsyāb
mill, water mill, flour mill	ژړنده	zhrandah	f	آسیاب	āsyāb
mountain	غر	ghar	m	کوه	kowh
mountain pass	کنډو	kandaw	m	گردنه	gardanah

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
mountain pass	غَاښی	ghāshay	m	کُوتَل	kowtal
mountain pass	مَعْبَر	ma'bar	m	مَعْبَر	ma'bar
mountain peak, crest	د غَرَه سر	dé grah sar	m	قُلَه	qolah
mountain range, chain	سِلْسِلَه	silsilah	f	سِلْسِلَه	selselah
mountain; large rocky hill	غَر	ghar	m	کوه	kowh
mouth or opening	خُولَه	khowléh	f	دَهان (دَهَن)	dahān (dahan)
mouth or opening of a small stream	خولگی	khūlgéy	f	دَهَن	dahan
mouth; natural opening, as to cave or valley	خُولَه	khowléh	f	دَهان (دَهَن)	dahān (dahan)
narrow pass, gorge	کَنډاو	kandaw	m	کُوتَل	kowtal
pasture, grassland, meadow	وَرشو	wérshow	f	چَمَنزَار	chamanzār
path, way, road; (can be) pass	لار	lār	f	راه	rāh
peak, summit	خُوکَه	tsūkah	f	قُلَه	qolah

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
piedmont	د غره خوله	dê ghrah khowlah	f	دِهَان کوه	dahān-e kowh
piedmont	د غره آمن	dê ghrah lamén	f	دِهَان کوه	dahān-e kowh
pit, ditch, trench	کنده	kandah	f	گودال	gowdāl
plain, plateau	سمه	samah	f	دشت	dasht
mountains	گرونه	ghrūnah	m	کوه ها	kowhhā
police station	د پولیسو ماموریت	dê powlīsū māmūrīyat	m	ماموریت پولیس	māmūrīyat-e powlīs
pond, pool, puddle	ډنډ	ḍand	m	تالاب	tālāb
pond, pool; lake (also, kowl / کول)	قول	qūl	m	قول (کول)	qowl (kowl)
pond, reservoir, shallow lake, basin	ناور	nāwēr	m	آبگیر / برکه	ābgīr / barkah
pond, small reservoir	ډنډ	ḍand	m	خوض	ḥowz
pond; ford, shallow water	کول	kowl	m	پایاب	pāyāb
province (first order administrative	ولایت	wilāyat	m	ولایت	velāyat

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
division)					
ravine, gorge, dry stream bed	واډي	wādī	f	وادی	vādī
refers to tributaries or river branches	ویاله	wiālah	f	شاخ	shākh
river	سیند	sīnd	m	رُود	rowd
river floodplain	کڅ	kats	m	دشت سیلابی	dasht-e seylābī
river mouth; glen; irrigation canal outlet	خوله	khowlēh	f	دهانه (دښنه)	dahānah (dahanah)
river valley; deep narrow canyon	ناوه	nāwah	f	وادی	vādī
river, large (rapid) stream	سیند	sīnd	m	دریا	daryā
river, large stream	سیند	sīnd	m	رُود	rowd
ruins	خرابه	kharābah	f	خرابه	kharābah
sand dune	غڼه	ghêṭah	f	تپه ریگ	tapah-ye reyg
sand dunes	شگی	shêgêy	f	ریگ	rīg
sand, gravel	شگه	shêgah	f	سنگ ریزه	sang reyzah

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
sand; sand dunes	شېگې	shigē	f	رېگ	reyg
sandy region, area of sand dunes	د شېگې ډېرې	dē shigē dīrēy	f	رېگستان	reygestān
sandy region, sand dunes	د شېگې ډېرې	dē shigē dīrēy	f	رېگزار	reygzār
school	ښوونځی	shōwūndzay	m	مکتب	maktab
sheepfold	شېول	shpowl	m	آغل	āghel
shrine, place of pilgrimage; tomb of a saint	زیارت	ziārat	m	مزار	mazār
shrine, place of pilgrimage; tomb of a saint	زیارت	ziārat	m	زیارت	zeyārat
side; edge; direction; country	خوا	khwā	f	طرف	ṭaraf
sluice; "small lock"	قلفک	qolfak	m	قلفک	qolfak
small hill	پښته	puṣhtah	f	پشته	poshtah
small mountain; hill; knob	کوچنی غر	kūchnay ghar	m	کوه خورْد	kowh khowrd

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
small water conduit, ditch	لښتۍ	lashtay	m	آبرو	ābrow
spring	چینه	chīnah	f	چشمه	chashmah
steep cliff or precipice	لابښ	lāsh	m	شاخ	shākh
strip; narrow feature of some sort	نری	naray	m	باریکه	bārīkah
subterranean canal	قنات	qanāt	m	قنات	qanāt
torrent, freshet, flood, current	سېلاو	sēlāw	m	سیلاب	seylāb
tower; observation tower	برج	brêj	m	برج	borj
town, city	ښار	shār	m	شهر	shahr
underground canal	کاريز	kārēz	m	کاريز	kāreyz
valley (wide, narrow, or very narrow)	دره	darah	f	دره	darah
village, big village, hamlet	کلی	kélay	m	قریه	qaryah
water	آوبه	owbêh	f	آب	āb

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
waterless valley	خُشک‌کَوه	khushkāwah	f	دَرَه خُشک	darah-ye khoshk
well	خاه	tsāh	f	چاه	chāh
well	کوهی	kūhay	m	چاه	chāh
wilderness; plain, steppe; desert	سَمه	samah	f	دَشْت	dasht
wilderness; plain, steppe; desert	دَنبَت, دَنبَتَه	dasht, dashtah	m	دَشْت	dasht
winter quarters; village	قیشلاق	qishlāq	m	قِشلاق	qeshlāq

7.2 Common Adjectives used in Geographic Names

English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
big, large	لوی, لویه	lowy, lowyah	m/f	کَلان	kalān
big, large, great	غټ, غټه	ghat, ghatāh	m/f	کَلان	kalān
black	تور / توره	towr / towrah	m/f	قَرَه	qarah
black	تور / توره	towr / towrah	m/f	سِيَاه	seyāh
black-colored	زنگی	zangay	m	سِيَاه رَنگ	seyāhrang
blue	آسماني /	asmānī / asmānēy	m/f	آبی	ābī

UNCLASSIFIED

English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
	آسمانی				
brown, grayish brown	نَسواري	nasvārī	m/f	نَسواری	nasvārī
deep	ژَوَره / ژَوَره	zhawêr / zhawêrah	m/f	عَمِيق، چُفُر	‘amiq, choqor
deep	ژَوَره / ژَوَره	zhawêr / zhawêrah	m/f	چُفُر (چُفُور)	choqor (choqowr)
dry	وِچ / وِچِه	wêch / wêchah	m/f	خُشک	khoshk
east	خَتِیخ	khatīdz	m	شَرْق	sharq
gray, dust-colored	خَمَره / خَمَره	khêr / khêrah	m/f	خَاكِسْتَرِي	khākestarī
green	شِين / شِينِه	shīn / shīnah	m/f	سَبَز	sabz
high, tall, lofty, elevated; height	جَگه / جَگه	jêg / jêgah	m/f	بَلاَنَد	beland
large, big	لَوِي، غَټِي	lowy, ghaṭ	m/f	کَلان	kalān
little	کَم، کَمِه	kam, kamah	m/f	کَم	kam
little	کَمکِي	kamkay	m	خُورْد	khowrd
little, small see also kowchak	وُور / وُورِه کوچنِي / کوچنِي	wowī / warah kūchnay / kūchnêy	m/f	خُورْد	khowrd
long. lengthy	اُورْد / اُورْدِه	ūzhd / ūzhdah	m/f	دَراز	darāz

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
low	ټيټه / ټيټ	ṭīt / ṭīṭah	m/f	پاټين	pā'in
lower, down, below	کور / کوره	kūz / kūzah	m/f	پاټين، زیر	pā'in, zīr
massive, large	لوار	lwār	m	حجیم	ḥajīm
middle, central	منځنی /	mandzanay /	m/f	متوسط	mowtavasaṭ
		mandzanêy			
narrow, thin	نری / نری	naray / narêy	m/f	تنگ	tang
north	شمال	shimāl	m	شمال	shemāl
red	سور / سره	sūr / strah	m/f	سرخ	sorkh
reddish (or light) brown	خرمائي	kharmā'ī	m/f	خرمائي	kharmā'ī
short	لڼډ / لڼډی	land / landay	m/f	کوټه	kowtāh
short	لڼډی /	landay / landêy	m/f	کوټه	kowtāh
small	کوچنی /	kūchnay / kūchnêy	m/f	خورد	khowrd, kowchak
also see wowr / warah					
small	وور / وړه	wowr / warah	m/f	خورد	khowrd, kowchak
also see kūchnay, kūchnêy					

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English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
south	جنوب	janūb	m	جنوب	janūb
upper, high	لوړه / لوړ	lwêr / lwêrah	m/f	بلند, بالا	beland, bālā
west	لوېديځ	lwēdīdz	m	غرب	gharb
white	سپينه / سپين	spīn / spīnah	m/f	سفید (سپید)	safeyd (sapeyd)
yellow	ژېړه / ژېړ	zhēr / zhērah	m/f	زرد	zard

7.3 Feature Designations

N/A.

7.4 Other Words used in Geographic Names

English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
noun suffix					
means diminution;	ږی / ږی	...rāy / ...rēy	m/f	ک	...ak
small					
(an honorific title)				خواجه	khvājah
grandfather	نيکه	nīkêh	m	پدرکالان	padarkalān
means sun-drenched spot or	پتاو			پتاو	petāow

UNCLASSIFIED

English Translation	Pashto Alphabet	Approved Pashto Transliteration	Gender	Dari Persian Alphabet	Approved Dari Persian Transliteration
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sunny side

8. Abbreviations Used on Official Maps

Abbreviations are rarely used on official Afghan sources.

9. Methods of Differentiating Toponyms from other Text on National Maps

Information on this topic is currently being gathered.

10. Non-Map Sources Consulted

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Appendix A. Major Languages of Afghanistan

Note: Languages listed are either spoken as a first language by 100,000 or more persons, or are listed in the Afghan 2004 Constitution, or are deemed of special interest to the BGN.

Language	Alternate Names	GNDB/ISO Code	Number of Speakers*	Language Family	Major Dialects
Aimaq	Barbari, Berberi, Chahar-Aimaq, Char Aimaq	AIQ	480,000 (1993)	Indo-European	-
Ashkun	Ashkund, Ashkuni, Wamayi, Wamaïs	ASK	1,200 (2000)	Indo-European	-
Baluchi	Baluch, Balochi, Baloch	BAL	200,000 (1979)	Indo-European	-
Brahui	Brahuiki, Birahui, Kur Galli	BRH	200,000 (1980)	Dravidian	-
Hazaragi	Azargi, Hazara, Hezareh	HAZ	1,770,000 (1994)	Indo-European	-
Kamviri	Kamdeshi, Lamertiviri, Shekhani, Kamik	XVI	4,000 (1973)	Indo-European	-
Kati	Bashgali, Kativiri, Nuristani	BSH	15,000 (1994)	Indo-European	-
Pashayi	Pashai	N/A	108,000 (2000)	Indo-European	Pashayi, Northeast (AEE) Pashayi, Northwest (GLH) Pashayi, Southeast (PSI) Pashayi, Southwest (PSH) Pashto, Northern (PBU) Pashto, Southern (PBT) *Persian, Dari (PRS) *Persian, Farsi (PES)
Pashto	Pushto, Pukhto, Pashtu, Pukhtoo, Pathan	PUS	8,000,000	Indo-European	
Persian	Dari, Eastern Farsi, Parsi	FAS	5,600,000 (1996)	Indo-European	

Language	Alternate Names	GNDB/ISO Code	Number of Speakers*	Language Family	Major Dialects
Prasuni	Prasun, Verun, Parun, Wasi- Veri, Veron, Verou	PRN	1,000 (2000)	Indo-European	-
Tajik	Galcha, Tadjiki, Tadzik, Tajiki	TGK	N/A	Indo-European	-
Tregami	Trigami	TRM	1,000 (1994)	Indo-European	-
Turkmen	Turkoman, Trukmen, Turkman	TUK	500,000 (1995)	Turkic	-
Uzbek	Uzbeki, Usbeki, Uzbak	UZB	1,403,000 (1991)	Turkic	Uzbek, Northern (UZN) Uzbek, Southern (UZS)
Waigali	Waigeli, Waigalii, Waigala, Zhonjigali, Suki, Wai-Ala, Kalasha-Ala	WBK	1,500 (2000)	Indo-European	-

Notes:

Population Estimates taken from *Ethnologue*.

Language names and codes taken from BGN Standard, derived from ISO 639-3

(<http://www.sil.org/iso639%2D3/default.asp>)

Appendix D. Dual Language Policy for Afghanistan

D.1 Background

The BGN recognizes one official name for all Afghan geographic features, either in Persian language, or in Pashto language. Official and unofficial maps of Afghanistan are usually produced with a mixture of Persian and Pashto-language names. Therefore, for each geographic name, a determination has to be made, what is the language of the name, Persian or Pashto?

D.2 Standard Operating Procedure: Determining the Language of an Afghan Name

The following rules define how to determine the language of a given name.

Assume the name is Persian, unless it contains either:

- a. A Pashto generic or adjective listed in the current Afghanistan glossary, Pashto column (section 7 of this document).
- b. OR, one of the letters which are not contained in the Persian alphabet (given in BGN, Yaghoubi and Perso-Arabic forms in Table D.1 below):

Table D.1: Letters which mark a name as 'Pashto'

	<i>BGN Romanized Form</i>	<i>AMMI (Yaghoubi) Romanized Form</i>	<i>Pashto Form</i>
<i>Consonants</i>	<u>t</u>	t	ټ
	<u>d</u>	d	ډ
	<u>r</u>	r	ړ
	<u>ŋ</u>	ŋ	ښ
	ts	c	خ
	dz	j̣	ج
	<u>sh</u>	š	ش
	<u>zh</u>	ž	ژ
<i>Vowels and Diphthongs</i>	êy	əy	ی
	ē	ē	ې
<i>Vowel Point</i>	ê	ə	ۀ

D.3 Standard Operating Procedure: Determining the Persian Equivalent Form of Pashto Names

Occasionally, it will be necessary to provide Persian-language names for features whose approved name is in Pashto. In such cases, the procedure below is to be followed.

When converting a Pashto name to Persian, use Table D.2, character equivalences for the special Pashto characters.

Table D.2 Pashto-Persian Character Equivalences

<i>Pashto Romanization</i>	<i>Pashto Character</i>	<i>Persian Character</i>	<i>Persian Romanization</i>
d	ډ	د	d
dz	ځ	ز	z
ts	څ	چ	ch
ē	ې	Zīr + ی	ey
êy	ئ	Zīr + ی	ey
êy	ی	Zīr + ی	ey
n	ښ	ن	n
r	ر	ر	r
sh	ش	خ	kh
t	ټ	ت	t
zh	ښ	ژ	zh
ê	Zwarakay (ڼ)	̈́ (Zebar)	a
i	̈́	̈́	e
u	̈́	̈́	o
w	و	و	v
ow	̈́و	̈́و	ow

1. If the Pashto letter already has a direct Persian equivalent, do not change the Pashto letter.
2. Table D.2 states to change the Pashto "i" to a Persian "e". However, if the Pashto "i" is at the end of a word, change it to a Persian "T".

3. When a Pashto name contains the possessive marker د (Romanized as ‘dê’), translate it as the Persian ezāfeh (-e or -ye). This means that you will switch the order of the words to produce a Persian name which includes the specific name and a Persian generic, with ezāfeh.

D.4 Standard Operating Procedure: Determining the Pashto Equivalent of Persian Names

Occasionally, it will be necessary to provide Pashto-language names for features whose approved name is in Persian. In such cases, the procedure below is to be followed.

1. Apply the character conversions listed in Table D.2 above, but in reverse.
2. If the Persian letter already has a direct Pashto equivalent, do not change the Persian letter.
3. For Persian d, n, r, z, sh, ch, ey, use a dictionary to determine which of the two possible Pashto letters is correct for the given word.
4. When a Persian name contains the Persian ezāfeh (-e or -ye) compound marker, translate it using the Pashto possessive construction د (romanized as ‘dê’). This means that you will switch the order of the words and put ‘dê’ in front.

Appendix E. BGN/PCGN 1958 Persian Romanization System

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR PERSIAN (Dari and Farsi)

BGN/PCGN 1958 System

This system was adopted by the BGN in 1946 and by the PCGN in 1958. It is used for the romanization of geographic names in Iran where the Persian language is referred to as Farsi. It is also used for the romanization of Persian-language names in Afghanistan where the Persian language is referred to as Dari. Distinctions between Dari and Farsi are reflected in the tables below.

The Persian alphabet utilizes Perso-Arabic script and displays the same characters as the Arabic alphabet with the addition of four consonant characters (گ, ژ, چ, پ). The same Roman-script conversion values are used for the Persian alphabet as for the Arabic alphabet, wherever the phonological characteristics of the two languages are sufficiently similar. (See Romanization System for Arabic, BGN/PCGN 1956 System.) Where characters common to Arabic and Persian writing have significantly different pronunciations in the two languages, Roman-script conversion values reflecting Persian pronunciation are provided in this system.

The Persian system of vowel pointing resembles that of Arabic, but contains features not found there. As in other Perso-Arabic-script writing systems, the vowel points and diacritical marks are generally omitted from both manual and machine writing. It follows that correct identification of the words which appear in any particular name, knowledge of its standard Persian spelling including proper pointing, and elimination of dialectal and idiosyncratic deviations, must be diligently sought.

Present limitations in Unicode-encoding may necessitate the use of multiple fonts for complete presentation of the Persian alphabet. For instance, in the tables below both Arial Unicode and the more cursive, but less complete, Scheherazade have been used. Please note the identification of the fonts listed here is not an endorsement of the products or the manufacturers.

CONSONANT CHARACTERS

Persian				Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
Final	Medial	Initial	Independent			
1.	ا	ا		<i>Not romanized in word-initial position</i>	إصفهان	Esfahān ^{2,5}
2.	ب	ب	ب	b	بُرُوجرد	Borūjerd
3.	پ	پ	پ	p	پَتَک	Patak
4.	ت	ت	ت	t	تِهْران	Tehrān *
5.	ث	ث	ث	s	ثَوَامِر	Šavāmer
6.	ج	ج	ج	j	جَهَان آباد	Jahānābād
7.	چ	چ	چ	ch	چَنار	Chenār
8.	ح	ح	ح	h	حُسَينِيه	Ḥoseynīyeh
9.	خ	خ	خ	kh	خُوزِستَان	Khūzestān
10.	د	د	د	d	دِزفُول	Dezfūl
11.	ذ	ذ	ذ	z	ذَالِيَاب	Žālyāb
12.	ر	ر	ر	r	رَشْت	Rasht
13.	ز	ز	ز	z	زِيبَا	Zībā
14.	ژ	ژ	ژ	zh	ژَان	Zhān
15.	س	س	س	s	سَرَتَنگ	Sartang

Persian				Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
Final	Medial	Initial	Independent			
16.	ش	ش	ش	sh	شِيرَاز	Shīrāz
17.	ص	ص	ص	s	صَفْجِه	Šafḥeh
18.	ض	ض	ض	z	ضِيَاء آباد	Ẓiā'ābād
19.	ط	ط	ط	ṭ	طَاق	Ṭāq
20.	ظ	ظ	ظ	ẓ	ظَلَم آباد	Ẓolmābād
21.	ع	ع	ع	'	عَزِيز آباد	'Azīzābād
22.	غ	غ	غ	gh	غَرَقِه	Gharqeh
23.	ف	ف	ف	f	فِرْدوس	Ferdows
24.	ق	ق	ق	q	قَزوين	Qazvīn
25.	ک/ك	ک	ک/ك	k	کاشان	Kāshān
26.	گ	گ	گ	g	گَرَاوَنْد	Garāvand
27.	ل	ل	ل	l	لِيلَان	Leylān
28.	م	م	م	m	مَشْهَد	Mashhad
29.	ن	ن	ن	n	نَائِين	Nā'in
30.	و	و	و	v/w	وَيْس وَرْدَك	Veys Wardak
31.	ه	ه	ه	h	هُمّا	Homā
32.	ی	ی	ی	y	يَزْد	Yazd

VOWEL CHARACTERS AND DIACRITICAL MARKS

	Persian	Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
1.	اَ	a	هَرَم	Harm
2.	اِ	e	دِزْگَن	Dezhgān
3.	اُ	o	هَرْمُز	Hormoz
4.	اَ	ā	بَارَانْگَرْد	Bārāngerd
5.	اَی (ی)	á	موسى آباد	Mūsáābād
6.	آ	ā	آهنگران	Āhangarān
7.	اِی (ی)	ī	میانده	Miāndeh
8.	اِو (و)	ū	شوش	Shūsh
9.	اِی (ی)	ey	حسین آباد	Ḥoseynābād
10.	اِو (و)	ow	نوده	Now Deh
11.	اَ	<i>not romanized</i>	مَرَوْدَشْت	Marv Dasht
12.	اَ	,	پائین آب	Pā'in Āb ⁵
13.	اَ	<i>doubling of consonant letter</i>	مَحْمَدِی	Moḥammadī
14.	اِی, اِو, اِو	-e, -ye	کوه پوشت	Kūh-e Pūst
			کوههای گنو	Kūhhā-ye Genū
			قلعه نظر	Qal'eh-ye Nazar ^{5,8}

NUMERALS

۱	۲	۳	۴, ٤	۵	۶, ٦	۷	۸	۹	۰
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

Although Perso-Arabic script is written from right to left, numerical expressions, e.g. ١٩٥٨ - 1958 are written from left to right.

NOTES

1. The Persian writing system, in its generally used form, employs only the characters found in the consonant table and the *alef maddeh* (اِ) of the vowel table. The characters in column 1 of the vowel table are traditional auxiliary characters used by Persians only sporadically to indicate the exact reading of a given word. The Persian vowel characters 7, 8, 9, and 10, which are romanized *ī*, *ū*, *ey*, and *ow* may be pointed in two different ways, as shown in the vowel table. One system adheres to the Arabic tradition, whereas the other represents a significant departure from it. Likewise, there are two ways of writing vowel character 5 (*alef maqṣūreh*).

2. *Alef* (اِ) occurs with the following uses:

a. Initially, it indicates that the word begins with a vowel or diphthong, and the *alef* itself is not

romanized; e.g., أنجیره → **Anjīreh**, ایوانی → **Eyvānī**.

b. Initially with *maddeh* (اَ), it represents **ā**; e.g., آبادان → **Ābādān**. See also note 6.

c. Medially and finally it represents **ā**; e.g., آبادان → **Ābādān**, توکا → **Tūkā**.

d. With *hamzeh*. See note 5.

3. Where special considerations are paramount, the sub-dot (ḥ, ṣ, ṭ, ṣ) may be used in place of the cedilla (h, s, t, z).
4. Occasionally the character sequences کھ, زھ, سھ, and گھ occur. They may be romanized **k·h**, **z·h**, **s·h**, and **g·h** in order to differentiate those romanizations from the digraphs **kh**, **zh**, **sh**, and **gh**, which are used to render the characters خ, ژ, ش, and غ.
5. *Hamzeh* (ء) is not regarded as a character of the Persian alphabet, but as a diacritic mark, and as such is not always expressed in actual writing. In fully pointed words, however, it appears in several graphic forms, standing alone or written in conjunction with *alef* (ا), *vāv* (و), or *ye* (ی). All these forms should be romanized simply with the apostrophe ('); e.g., جزء → **joz'**, صَفراء → **ṣafrā'**, مَأْخَذ → **ma'khaz**, مَوْثَمَن → **mo'taman**, پَانِین → **pā'in**.

Occasionally a word may appear pointed according to the strict Arabic tradition so as to indicate an initial *hamzeh*. This initial *hamzeh* should never be romanized. A vowel character positioned above or below a *hamzeh*, however, should be romanized; e.g., أنجیره, whether pointed أنجیره or أنجیره, should be romanized simply **Anjīreh**.

Hamzeh is also sometimes written over final ه or ی to represent the **-ye** form of the *ezāfeh*. Compare note 8.

6. *Alef maddeh* is used initially to indicate **ā**, e.g., آبادان → **Ābādān**. Non-initially it indicates **'ā** in words of Arabic origin and must be so romanized; e.g., قرآن → **Qor'ān**, مآب → **ma'āb**.
7. In words of Arabic origin, a consonant character which would ordinarily be written with a *shaddah* (ّ) in Arabic should be romanized by writing the equivalent consonant letter twice, e.g., مُحَمَّد → **Moḥammad**.

The Arabic adjectival ending یه should be romanized **īyeh** or **īyah**, depending on vowel pointing. In names of Arabic origin containing the definite article, the article should be romanized **al**, **el** or **ol** according to its Persian pronunciation. When the definite article precedes a word beginning with one of the “sun letters” - t, s, d, z, r, z, s, sh, ṣ, z, ṭ, z, l, n—the **l** is assimilated in pronunciation and romanization. The article is written in lower case and separate from the preceding and following word; e.g., زین الدین → **Zeyn od Dīn**. (Special Rule 1.)

8. The relational suffix (*ezāfeh*) should be romanized **-e** after a final consonant character (except for ه,

when silent). After silent *he* (ه) and after vowel characters, it should be romanized **-ye**. It is usually not expressed in Persian writing after a consonant, *kasreh* (◌ِ) being understood, e.g., کوه مرغوب → **Kūh-e Marghūb**. After final *alef* (ا) or *vāv* (و) it is written with *ye* (ی); e.g., پای آب → **Pā-ye Āb**, جوی آس → **Jū-ye Ās**. After *ye* and silent *he* it is expressed by writing *hamzeh* over the character; e.g., دهانهٔ ممبر → **Dahāneh-ye Mambar**, سلسهٔ بزرگ → **Salasī-ye Bozorg**.

9. As a consonant, the letter و is romanized **v** in Farsi (Iran) and **w** in Dari (Afghanistan).
10. In word-final position, the consonant *ha* (ه) is romanized **-eh** following the short vowel *zir* (ِ) in Farsi, and **-ah** following the short vowel *zebar* (َ) in Dari: سریشه Sarbīsheh (Farsi); میمنه Meymanah (Dari).

SPECIAL RULES

1. In Persian names of Arabic origin, the word division used for romanizing Arabic will be used, except that names ending in the word **Allāh** will be written together and the **a** of **Allāh** will be replaced by **o**, e.g., ‘**Abdollāh**’. The Arabic definite article will be written **al** or its assimilated equivalent in name-initial position but usually **ol** or its assimilated equivalent elsewhere, e.g., Al Ḥāṭi but Zū ol Faqār and Kūh oz Zahr. Compare note 7 above.
2. Word division in approved romanized forms shall follow word divisions in the original Persian script, except as amended in Special Rules 3 and 4.
3. Plural nouns which end in **-hā** or **-ān** should be written as one word, regardless of whether a space appears in the Persian source, or whether the Persian stem ends with a letter in final form. For example, جزیره ها ‘islands’ is romanized as **jazīrehhā**, not **jazīreh hā**.
4. Persian derivational endings such as **vand** and endings of Turkic origin such as **ī, ū, lar, lī, lū, sī,** and **sū** should be written together with the preceding word, whether so written in Persian script or not.
5. The character sequence ۀ, which represents the vowel **e** in word-medial position in words of Turkish origin, should be romanized **eh** and should be written as part of the word.
6. The character sequence خو, when followed by ا or ی or when pointed by the vowel character ُ, should be romanized **khv** in Farsi or **khw** in Dari, although the v/w is not pronounced.
7. The Persian word for “two,” written as دو, should always be romanized **do**.
8. The Persian letter *vāv* (و) when used to link components of numerals greater than 20, is romanized as **-o** (after consonants) or **-yo** (after vowels). For example, بیست و یک is romanized **bīst-o yek** (۲۱); سی و یک is romanized **sī-yo yek** (۳۱).

ROMANIZATION SYSTEM FOR PASHTO

BGN/PCGN 1968 System, 2006 Revision

This system was developed in 1968 for the romanization of Pashto geographic names. Dari names in Afghanistan are romanized in accordance with the romanization System for Persian (BGN/PCGN 1958 System).

The Pashto alphabet uses a modified form of the Perso-Arabic script, and contains eight additional consonants not present in standard Arabic, as well as two additional vowel characters and an additional vowel point. Since both Pashto and Dari are official languages in Afghanistan, the same conversion values are used for all consonant characters which are common to the two languages. The eight additional Pashto consonant characters (shown below) are represented by Roman-script conversion values that suggest approximate pronunciations, and which, in six instances, bear sub-macrons.

Consonants: پ څ خ ډ ږ ښ ږ ښ

The two additional vowels and the one vowel point found in Pashto but not in Arabic are shown below:

Vowels: ی ی

Vowel Point: (ٚ)

The Pashto system of vowel pointing resembles that of both Arabic and Persian but contains additional features found in neither language. As in other Perso-Arabic-script writing systems, the vowel points and some of the diacritical marks are generally omitted from both manual and machine writing and where used are rarely fully applied. Consequently, a reference source may sometimes be required to ensure correct identification of the standard spellings and proper vowels. It is also necessary to ensure elimination of dialectal and idiosyncratic variations. In the interest of clarity, full vowel pointing has been applied to the examples below.

(Note: it is recommended that a font such as Scheherezade, available from www.sil.org, which includes the entire Unicode extended Arabic subrange, be used to view this system.)

Table 1: Consonant Characters

	Pashto				Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent			
1.	ل			ل	<i>not romanized in word-initial position</i>	<i>See note 1</i>	
2.	ب	ب	ب	ب	b	بَغْلَان	Baghlān
3.	پ	پ	پ	پ	p	پَوټکي	Powṭakay
4.	ت	ت	ت	ت	t	شیرین تگاب	Shirīn Tagāb
5.	ټ	ټ	ټ	ټ	ṭ	ټټي	Taṇī
6.	ث	ث	ث	ث	ṣ	ثاير	Sābir

	Pashto				Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
	Final	Medial	Initial	Independent			
7.	ج	ج	ج	ج	j	جَلال آباد	Jalālābād
8.	چ	چ	چ	چ	ch	چاریکار	Chārīkār
9.	خ	خ	خ	خ	ts	خوکی	Tsawkêy
10.	ځ	ځ	ځ	ځ	Dz	ځدران	Dzadrān
11.	څ	څ	څ	څ	Dz	څدران	Dzadrān
12.	ح	ح	ح	ح	ḥ	حضرت امام	Hazarat Imām ^{1a}
13.	خ	خ	خ	خ	kh	خوست	Khowst
14.	د			د	d	سپین بولدک	Spīn Bowldak
15.				د	<u>d</u>	دند و پتان	<u>D</u> and wa Patān
16.	ذ			ذ	z	ذوبی غر	Zowbay Ghar
17.	ر			ر	r	کندهار	Kandahār
18.				ر	<u>r</u>	اندړ	Andar ^{1a}
19.	ز			ز	z	کندز	Kunduz
20.	ژ			ژ	zh	میر اسلم ژرنده	Mīr Aslam Zhrandah ^{1a}
21.	ه			ه	<u>zh</u>	بریرین	<u>Z</u> hīyarayn
22.	س	سد	سد	س	s	دسلیم کلی	Dê Salīm Kêlay ⁶
23.	ش	شد	شد	ش	sh	مزار شریف	Mazār-i Sharīf ¹⁰
24.	ښ	ښد	ښد	ښ	<u>sh</u>	کېته کلا	K <u>sh</u> atah Kalā
25.	ص	صد	صد	ص	ṣ	قیصار	Qayṣār
26.	ض	ضد	ضد	ض	<u>z</u>	فیض آباد	Fay <u>z</u> ābād ⁵
27.	ط	ط	ط	ط	ṭ	قُطسۍ سُفلۍ	Quṭsī-yi Suflā ^{4,10}
28.	ظ	ظ	ظ	ظ	ẓ	ظاهر کلا	<u>Ẓ</u> āhir Kalā
29.	ع	ع	ع	ع	‘	پُل علم	Pul-i ‘Alam ^{4,10}
30.	غ	غ	غ	غ	gh	غزنی	Ghaznī
31.	ف	ف	ف	ف	f	مزار شریف	Mazār-i Sharīf ¹⁰
32.	ق	ق	ق	ق	q	قُطسۍ سُفلۍ	Quṭsī-yi Suflā ^{4,10}
33.	ک	ک	ک	ک	k	کندهار	Kandahār
34.	گ	گ	گ	گ	g	گردیز	Gardēz
35.	ګ	ګ	ګ	ګ	g	ګیزاب	Gīzāb
36.	ل	ل	ل	ل	l	کابل	Kābêl

37.	م	م	م	م	m	مَیْمَنَه	Maymanah
38.	ن	ن	ن	ن	n	خَانَآباد	Khānābād ⁵
39.	ن	ن	ن	ن	n	تَنِي	Tanī
40.	و			و	w	وَآخَانَ	Wākhān
41.	ه	ه	ه	ه	h	هَرَات	Hirāt
42.	ی	ی	ی	ی	y	یُوسُف خېل	Yūsuf Khēl
43.	ی	ی	ی	ی	y	پَکْتِیَا	Paktyā

Table 2: Vowel Characters

	Pashto	Romanization	Examples and Remarks	
1.	اَ	a	زَوَر	Zawar
2.	اَ	ā	هَرَات	Hirāt
3.	اِ	i	هَرَات	Hirāt
4.	اِی	ī	غَزَنِي	Ghaznī
5.	اِی	ī	گِيزاب	Gīzāb
6.	اِی	ay	شَکُور کلي	Shakūr Kēlay
7.	اِی	(ey)		(deprecated)
8.	اِی	ē	گَرْدېز	Gardēz
9.	او	aw	خُوکي	Tsawkēy
10.	او	āw	يَکاوَلَنگ	Yakāwlang
11.	او	(ew)		(deprecated)
12.	اِ	ê	شَلْگَر	Shêlgar
13.	اِی	êy	سَرکانِي	Sarkānêy
14.	اِی	êy	کَوِي	kawêy, you do ^{4,10}
15.	اِ	u	مُرْغَاب	Murghāb
16.	او	ū	بَالَا بُلُوک	Bālā Bulūk
17.	او	ow	لُوگَر	Lowgar
18.	اِوِي	ūy	شَاه جُوي	Shāh Jūy
19.	اِی	āy	دَايْمِير دَاد	Dāymīrdād
20.	آ	ā	جَلَال آباد	Jalālābād
21.	ء	'	خَدِير پَاتِين	Khidīr-i Pā'in
22.	اِ	doubling of consonant letter	خَانَشِين	Khānnishīn
23.	اِی	á	قُطْسِي سَفْلِي	Qutsī-yi Suflá

NUMERALS									
٠	١	٢	٣	٤,٤	٥,٥	٦,٦	٧	٨	٩
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Although Perso-Arabic script is written from right to left, numerical expressions, e.g. ١٩٦٨ → 1968, are written from left to right.

NOTES

- Alīf (ا) should be romanized as follows:
 - In word-initial position, alīf should not be romanized.
 - In word-initial position, alīf with maddah (آ) should be romanized **ā**. (See the vowel table.)
 - In word-medial and word-final position, alīf should be romanized **ā**. (See the vowel table.)
 - In word-medial and word-final position in words of Arabic origin, alīf may serve as the bearer of hamzah, e.g. رأس - **ra's** (See note 4.)
- The characters tsē (تس) and dzē (دز) may be romanized **ts̄** and **dz̄** when for special reasons it is desired that confusion be avoided between ت plus س and between د plus ز, respectively.
- Occasionally the character sequences زه, زه, شه, and گه occur. They may be romanized **k•h**, **z•h**, **s•h**, and **g•h** in order to differentiate these romanizations from the digraphs **kh**, **zh**, **sh**, and **gh**, which are used to represent the characters ش, ز, خ, and غ.
- Hamzah (ء) should be romanized as follows:
 - In word-initial position, it should not be romanized. In other positions, however, it should be romanized by an apostrophe, e.g. جزء → **juz'**.
 - Yē with hamzah (ي) should be romanized **êy**, unless it represents the compound (izāfah) morpheme, in which case it is romanized according to rule 10 below.
- The division of words utilized in Pashto writing is followed in romanization, except that the elements **-ābād**, **-khwā**, **-shahr**, **-zay** and **ullāh** are always romanized as part of the preceding word, e.g.

رَحْمَتِ أَبَاد → Raḥmatābād and رَحْمَتِ اللَّهِ → Raḥmatullāh. Also, Persian derivational endings such as **–vand** and endings of Turkish origin such as **–lar, –lī, –lū, –i, –u, –si,** and **–su**, should be written together with the preceding word.

6. The Pashto preposition د should be romanized **dê** in agreement with its pronunciation, despite the fact that it is sometimes pointed with zīr.
7. The word الله, meaning God, should always be romanized **Allāh**, except as specified in note 5.
8. In names of Arabic origin, the **l** of the definite article **al** is assimilated before the ‘sun letters’ t, ṣ, d, ḏ, r, z, s, sh, ṣ, ḏ, ṭ, ḏ, and n. In romanization, the article should be separated from the name it precedes and should not be capitalized, except at the beginning of a name, e.g. جَبَلُ السَّرَاج → **Jabal as Sarāj**.
9. In names of Arabic origin, a consonant character which would ordinarily be written with a *shaddah* (ّ) in Arabic should be romanized by writing the equivalent consonant letter twice, e.g., مُحَمَّد → **Muḥammad**.
10. In Pashto names which contain the Persian compound (*izafah*) morpheme, the *izafah* should be romanized as **–i** if the preceding word ends with a consonant other than yeh (ی) or silent heh (ه), and as **–yi** otherwise.
11. The character sequence خو, when followed by ې or ی or when pointed by the vowel character (و), should be romanized **khw**, although the **w** is either not pronounced, or only weakly pronounced.

Appendix G. Rules for Conversion from Yaghoubi (AMMI) Spellings to BGN/PCGN Spellings

Version 3

Corrected 3/20/2006

The following guidance describes the procedure for converting geographical names from Afghanistan from the Yaghoubi (Afghanistan Ministry of Mines and Industries – AMMI) transliteration system to the BGN/PCGN Persian or BGN/PCGN Pashto transliteration systems.

1. Determine whether the name to be converted is a Persian name or a Pashto name by following the rules in Appendix D.
2. If the Yaghoubi name is a Persian name, use Table G.1 below to convert each letter or combination of letters to its BGN/PCGN Persian equivalent.
3. If the Yaghoubi name is a Pashto name, use Table G.2 below to convert each letter or combination of letters to its BGN/PCGN Pashto equivalent.
4. More specific replacements (longer replacement strings, or more specific context) take precedence over more general replacements (shorter replacement strings, or less specific context).
5. If the result of conversion conflicts with the current BGN Afghanistan glossary, Persian column or Pashto column respectively (Section 7 of this document), the spelling of the glossary entry shall take precedence over the spelling derived from conversion.
6. For Pashto names derived from Yaghoubi sources, no letters or combinations of letters may be present in the converted form which are not allowed in the BGN/PCGN Pashto transliteration system.
7. For Persian names derived from Yaghoubi sources, no letters or combinations of letters may be present in the converted form which are not allowed in the BGN/PCGN Persian transliteration system.

Table G.1. Yaghoubi (AMMI) to BGN/PCGN Persian Conversion Chart

<i>Yaghoubi (AMMI) letter</i>			<i>BGN/PCGN Persian Equivalent</i>		
<i>Char.</i>	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>	<i>Char.</i>	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>
'	0027	39	'	2018	8216
ƒ	06F6	1782	'	2019	8217
A	0041	65	A	0041	65
a	0061	97	a	0061	97
Ā	0100	256	Ā	0100	256
ā	0101	257	ā	0101	257
a# ¹	0061	97	ah# ¹	0061+0068	97+104
Aw	0041+0077	65+119	Ow	004F+0077	79+119
aw	0061+0077	97+119	ow	006F+0077	111+119
Ay	0041+0079	65+121	Ey	0045+0079	69+121
ay	0061+0079	97+121	ey	0066+0079	101+121
Ā y	0100+0079	256+121	Ā ' ī	0100+2019+012B	256+8217+299
ā y	0101+0079	257+121	ā ' ī	0101+2019+012B	257+8217+299
B	0042	66	B	0042	66
b	0062	98	b	0062	98
C	0043	67	<i>Does not appear in Persian Names</i>	-	-
c	0063	99			
Č	0101C	268	Ch	0043+0068	67+104
č	010D	269	ch	0063+0068	99+104
D	0044	68	<i>Does not appear in</i>	-	-
d	0064	100			

<i>Yaghoubi (AMMI) letter</i>			<i>BGN/PCGN Persian Equivalent</i>		
<i>Char.</i>	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>	<i>Char.</i>	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>
			<i>Persian Names</i>		
Ḍ	1E0E	7694	D	0044	68
ḍ	1E0F	7695	d	0064	100
Ḍz	0044+0332+007A+0332	68+818+122+818	Ẑ	1E94	7828
ḍz	0064+0332+007A+0332	100+818+122+818	ẑ	1E95	7829
ə	0259	601	<i>Does not appear in Persian Names</i>	-	-
E ⁶	0045	69	Ey	0045+0079	69+121
e ⁶	0079	121	ey	0065+0079	101+121
Ē ⁶	0112	274	Ey	0045+0079	69+121
ē ⁶	0113	275	ey	0065+0079	101+121
F	0046	70	F	0046	70
f	0066	102	f	0066	102
G	0047	71	G	0047	71
g	0067	103	g	0067	103
Ġ	01E6	486	Gh	0047+0068	71+104
ġ	01E7	487	gh	0067+0068	103+104
Ġ̄	1E20	7712	G	0047	71
ġ̄	1E21	7713	g	0067	103
Gh	0047+0068	71+104	Gh	0047+0068	71+104
gh	0067+0068	103+104	gh	0067+0068	103+104
H	0048	72	H	0048	72
h	0068	104	h	0068	104
Ḥ	0048+0331	72+817	Ḥ	1E28	7720
ḥ	0068+0331	104+817	ḥ	1E29	7721

<i>Yaghoubi (AMMI) letter</i>			<i>BGN/PCGN Persian Equivalent</i>		
<i>Char.</i>	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>	<i>Char.</i>	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>
-i-	002D+0069+002D	45+105+45	-e, -ye ²	002D(+0079)+0065	45(+121)+101
İ ³	0049	73	E	0045	69
ı ³	0069	105	e	0079	121
Ī ³	012A	298	Ī	012A	298
ī ³	012B	299	ī	012B	299
J	004A	74	J	004A	74
j	006A	106	J	006A	106
J	004A+0304	74+772	<i>Does not appear in Persian Names</i>	-	-
j	006A+0304	106+772			
K	004B	75	K	004B	75
k	006B	107	k	006B	107
Kh	004B+0068	75+104	Kh	004B+0068	75+104
kh	006B+0068	107+104	kh	006B+0068	107+104
L	004C	76	L	004C	76
l	006C	108	l	006C	108
M	004D	77	M	004D	77
m	006D	109	m	006D	109
N	004E	78	N	004E	78
n	006E	110	n	006E	110
N̄	1E48	488	<i>Does not appear in Persian Names</i>	-	-
n̄	1E49	489			

<i>Yaghoubi (AMMI) letter</i>			<i>BGN/PCGN Persian Equivalent</i>		
<i>Char.</i>	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>	<i>Char.</i>	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>
Ō ⁴	004F	79	O	004F	79
o ⁴	006F	111	o	006F	111
Ō ⁴	014C	332	Ow	004F+0077	79+119
ō ⁴	014D	333	ow	006F+0077	111+119
P	0050	80	P	0050	80
p	0070	112	p	0070	112
Q	0051	81	Q	0051	81
q	0071	113	q	0071	113
R r	0052 0072	82 114	<i>Does not appear in Persian Names</i>	-	-
Ṛ	1E5E	7774	R	0052	82
ṛ	1E5F	7775	r	0072	114
S	0054	83	S	0054	83
s	0073	115	s	0073	115
Š	0160	352	Sh	0053+0068	83+72
š	0161	353	sh	0073+0068	115+72
Ṣ	0053+0331	83+817	Ş	015E	350
ṣ	0073+0331	115+817	ş	015F	351
Ṣ ṣ	0160+0331 0161+0331	352+817 353+817	<i>Does not appear in Persian Names</i>	-	-
T t	0054 0075	84 116	<i>Does not appear in</i>	-	-

<i>Yaghoubi (AMMI) letter</i>			<i>BGN/PCGN Persian Equivalent</i>		
<i>Char.</i>	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>	<i>Char.</i>	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>
			<i>Persian Names</i>		
Ṭ	0054+0304	84+772	Ṭ	0054	84
ṭ	0074+0304	116+772	ṭ	0074	116
Ṫ	1E6E	7790	Ṫ	0162	354
ṫ	1E6F	7791	ṫ	0163	355
U ⁵	0055	85	O	004F	79
u ⁵	0075	117	o	006F	111
Ū ⁵	016A	362	Ū	016A	362
ū ⁵	016B	363	ū	016B	363
W	0057	87	V	0056	86
w	0077	119	v	0076	118
X	0058	88	Kh	004B+0068	75+104
x	0078	120	kh	006B+0068	107+104
Y	0059	89	Y	0059	89
y	0079	121	y	0079	121
Z	005A	90	Z	005A	90
z	007A	122	z	007A	122
Ž	017D	381	Zh	005A+0068	90+104
ž	017E	382	zh	007A+0068	122+104
Z̤	005A+0304	90+772	Z̤	005A+0304	90+772
z̤	007A+0304	122+772	z̤	007A+0304	122+772
Z̥	1E94	7828	Z̥	005A+0327	90+807
z̥	1E95	7829	z̥	007A+0327	122+807
Ž̥ ž̥	017D+0331 017E+0331	381+817 382+817	<i>Does not appear in Persian Names</i>	-	-

Notes:

- ¹# stands for a word boundary.
- ²-ye after vowels and heh or yeh, elsewhere – e. See *Iran or Afghanistan Names Standardization Policy* for more details.
- ³In some Yaghoubi sources, ī is written as ï, and ï is written as ı (dotless i, U0131).
- ⁴In some Yaghoubi sources, ō is written as o, and o (pē sh) is not used.
- ⁵In some Yaghoubi sources, u and ū are both written as u. In such cases, additional evidence is necessary to convert to the correct BGN vowel.
- ⁶In some Yaghoubi sources, e is written as ı , and ē is written as e.

Table G.2. Yaghoubi (AMMI) to BGN/PCGN Pashto Conversion Chart

<i>Yaghoubi (AMMI) letter</i>			<i>BGN/PCGN Pashto Equivalent</i>		
<i>Char</i> .	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>	<i>Char</i> .	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>
'	0027	39	‘	2018	8216
ƒ	06F6	1782	’	2019	8217
A	0041	65	A	0041	65
a	0061	97	a	0061	97
Ā	0100	256	Ā	0100	256
ā	0101	257	ā	0101	257
a# ¹	0061	97	ah# ¹	0061+0068	97+104
Aw	0041+0077	65+119	Aw	0041+0077	65+119
aw	0061+0077	97+119	aw	0061+0077	97+119
Ay	0041+0079	65+121	Ay	0041+0079	65+121
ay	0061+0079	97+121	ay	0061+0079	97+121
Ā y	0100+0079	256+121	Ā y	0100+0079	256+121
ā y	0101+0079	257+121	ā y	0101+0079	257+121
B	0042	66	B	0042	66
b	0062	98	b	0062	98
C	0043	67	Ts	0054+0073	67+115
c	0063	99	ts	0074+0073	99+115
Č	0101C	268	Ch	0043+0068	67+104
č	010D	269	ch	0063+0068	99+104
D	0044	68	Ḍ	1E0E	7694
d	0064	100	ḍ	1E0F	7695
Ḍ	1E0E	7694	D	0044	68
ḍ	1E0F	7695	d	0064	100
Ḍz	0044+0332+007A+0332	68+818+122+818	Ẑ	1E94	7828
ḍz	0064+0332+007A+0332	100+818+122+818	ẑ	1E95	7829

<i>Yaghoubi (AMMI) letter</i>			<i>BGN/PCGN Pashto Equivalent</i>		
<i>Char</i> .	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>	<i>Char</i> .	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>
ə	0259	601	ê	00EA	275
E ⁵	0045	69	l	0049	73
e ⁵	0079	121	i	0069	105
Ē ⁵	0112	274	Ē	0112	274
ē ⁵	0113	275	ē	0113	275
F	0046	70	F	0046	70
f	0066	102	f	0066	102
G	0047	71	G	0047	71
g	0067	103	g	0067	103
Ĝ	01E6	486	Gh	0047+0068	71+104
ĝ	01E7	487	gh	0067+0068	103+104
Ĝ	1E20	7712	G	0047	71
ĝ	1E21	7713	g	0067	103
Gh	0047+0068	71+104	Gh	0047+0068	71+104
gh	0067+0068	103+104	gh	0067+0068	103+104
H	0048	72	H	0048	72
h	0068	104	h	0068	104
H̲	0048+0331	72+817	Ḥ	1E28	7720
h̲	0068+0331	104+817	ḥ	1E29	7721
l ²	0049	73	l	0049	73
l ²	0069	105	i	0069	105
l̲ ²	012A	298	l̲	012A	298
l̲ ²	012B	299	l̲	012B	299
J	004A	74	J	004A	74
j	006A	106	J	006A	106
J	004A+0304	74+772	Dz	0044+007A	68+122
j̲	006A+0304	106+772	dz	0064+007A	100+122
K	004B	75	K	004B	75
k	006B	107	k	006B	107

<i>Yaghoubi (AMMI) letter</i>			<i>BGN/PCGN Pashto Equivalent</i>		
<i>Char</i> .	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>	<i>Char</i> .	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>
Kh	004B+0068	75+104	Kh	004B+0068	75+104
kh	006B+0068	107+104	kh	006B+0068	107+104
L	004C	76	L	004C	76
l	006C	108	l	006C	108
M	004D	77	M	004D	77
m	006D	109	m	006D	109
N	004E	78	N	004E	78
n	006E	110	n	006E	110
Ṽ	1E48	488	Ṽ	1E48	488
ṽ	1E49	489	ṽ	1E49	489
O ³	004F	79	U	0055	85
o ³	006F	111	u	0075	117
Ō ³	014C	332	Ow	004F+0077	79+119
ō ³	014D	333	ow	006F+0077	111+119
P	0050	80	P	0050	80
p	0070	112	p	0070	112
Q	0051	81	Q	0051	81
q	0071	113	q	0071	113
R	0052	82	Ṛ	1E5E	7774
r	0072	114	ṛ	1E5F	7775
Ṛ	1E5E	7774	R	0052	82
ṛ	1E5F	7775	r	0072	114
S	0054	83	S	0054	83
s	0073	115	s	0073	115
Š	0160	352	Sh	0053+0068	83+72
š	0161	353	sh	0073+0068	115+72
Ṣ	0053+0331	83+817	Ş	015E	350
ṣ	0073+0331	115+817	ş	015F	351
Ṣ̣	0160+0331	352+817	Ṣh	0053+0332+0068+0332	83+818+104+818
ṣ̣	0161+0331	353+817	ṣh	0073+0332+0068+0332	115+818+104+818

<i>Yaghoubi (AMMI) letter</i>			<i>BGN/PCGN Pashto Equivalent</i>		
<i>Char</i> .	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>	<i>Char</i> .	<i>Hexidecimal Value</i>	<i>Decimal Value</i>
Ṭ	0054	84	Ṭ	1E6E	7790
t	0075	116	t	1E6F	7791
Ṭ	0054+0304	84+772	Ṭ	0054	84
t	0074+0304	116+772	t	0074	116
Ṭ	1E6E	7790	Ṭ	0162	354
t	1E6F	7791	t	0163	355
U ⁴	0055	85	U	0055	85
u ⁴	0075	117	u	0075	117
Ū ⁴	016A	362	Ū	016A	362
ū ⁴	016B	363	ū	016B	363
W	0057	87	W	0057	87
w	0077	119	w	0077	119
X	0058	88	Kh	004B+0068	75+104
x	0078	120	kh	006B+0068	107+104
Y	0059	89	Y	0059	89
y	0079	121	y	0079	121
Z	005A	90	Z	005A	90
z	007A	122	z	007A	122
Ž	017D	381	Zh	005A+0068	90+104
ž	017E	382	zh	007A+0068	122+104
Z	005A+0304	90+772	Z	005A+0304	90+772
z	007A+0304	122+772	z	007A+0304	122+772
Z̤	1E94	7828	Z̤	005A+0327	90+807
z̤	1E95	7829	z̤	007A+0327	122+807
Ž̤	017D+0331	381+817	Z̤h	005A+0332+0068+0332	90+818+104+818
ž̤	017E+0331	382+817	z̤h	007A+0332+0068+0332	122+818+104+818

- ¹# stands for a word boundary.
- ²In some Yaghoubi sources, ṭ is written as i, and i is written as ı (dotless i, U0131).
- ³In some Yaghoubi sources, ō is written as o, and o (pē sh) is not used.

- ⁴*In some Yaghoubi sources, u and ū are both written as u. In such cases, additional evidence is necessary to convert to the correct BGN vowel.*
- ⁵*In some Yaghoubi sources, e is written as ı , and ē is written as e.*

Appendix H. Pronunciation Guide for Persian and Romanized Persian Letters in Afghan Geographical Names

<i>Persian Letter</i>	<i>BGN Romanized Form</i>	<i>English Pronunciation</i>
ب	b	/b/ as in 'Boston'
پ	p	/p/ as in 'Peoria'
ت	t	/t/ as in 'Tacoma'
ث	ṡ	/s/ as in 'Seattle'
ج	j	/j/ as in 'Johnstown'
چ	ch	/ch/ as in 'Chattanooga'
ح	ḥ	/h/ as in 'Hyattsville'
خ	kh	no English equivalent: pronounce like /ch/ in Scottish 'loch', or like German 'Ach!'
د	d	/d/ as in 'Detroit'
ذ	ḏ	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ر	r	/r/ as in 'Reno'
ز	z	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ژ	zh	/zh/ as in 'measure'
س	s	/s/ as in 'Seattle'
ش	sh	/sh/ as in 'Sharpsburg'
ص	ṣ	/s/ as in 'Seattle'
ض	ẓ	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ط	ṭ	/t/ as in 'Tacoma'
ظ	ẓ	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ع	ʿ	glottal stop (glottal catch) as in 'uh-oh'
غ	gh	no English equivalent (closest is /g/ as in 'Gotham').
ف	f	/f/ as in 'Fayetteville'
ق	q	no English

<i>Persian Letter</i>	<i>BGN Romanized Form</i>	<i>English Pronunciation</i>
		equivalent (closest is /k/ as in in 'Copenhagen'). Pronounce like Arabic qaf.
ك	k	/k/ as in 'California'
گ	g	/g/ as in 'Gotham'
ل	l	/l/ as in 'Londonderry'
م	m	/m/ as in 'Monaco'
ن	n	/n/ as in 'New Mexico'
و	v	/w/ as in 'Wilmette'
ه	h	/h/ as in 'Hyattsville'
ة	(-)	/t/ as in 'Tacoma'
ی	y	/y/ as in 'Youngstown'
zebar (fatḥeh)	a	/a/ as in 'Chicago'
zeyr	e	/eh/ as in 'Denver'
(peysh) zameh	o	/iy/ as in 'Reno'
zebar alef	ā	/a/ as in 'Chicago'
alef maqṣūrah	á	/a/ as in 'Chicago'
zeyr yeh	ī	/iy/ as in 'Reno'
zeyr yeh sāken	ey	/ey/ as in 'Gaithersburg'
peysh vāv	ow	/ow/ as in 'Ocean City'

Appendix I. Pronunciation Guide for Pashto and Romanized Pashto Letters in Afghan Geographical Names

<i>Pashto Letter</i>	<i>BGN Romanized Form</i>	<i>English Pronunciation</i>
ب	b	/b/ as in 'Boston'
پ	p	/p/ as in 'Peoria'
ت	t	/t/ as in 'Tacoma'
ټ	ṭ	/t/ as in 'Tacoma,' but pronounced as if with an Indian accent.
س	s̄	/s/ as in 'Seattle'
ج	j	/j/ as in 'Johnstown'
چ	ch	/ch/ as in 'Chattanooga'
ح	h̄	/h/ as in 'Hyattsville'
خ	kh	no English equivalent: pronounce like /ch/ in Scottish 'loch', or like German 'Ach!'
څ	ts	/ts/ as in 'Stetson'
ځ	dz	/dz/ as in 'adze'
د	d	/d/ as in 'Detroit'
ذ	z̄	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ر	r	/r/ as in 'Reno'
ړ	ṛ	/r/ as in 'Reno,' but pronounced as if with an Indian accent.
ز	z	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ژ	zh	/zh/ as in 'measure'
ږ	z̄h	/zh/ as in 'measure'
س	s	/s/ as in 'Seattle'
ش	sh	/sh/ as in 'Sharpsburg'
ښ	sh̄	/sh/ as in 'Sharpsburg'
ص	ṣ	/s/ as in 'Seattle'

<i>Pashto Letter</i>	<i>BGN Romanized Form</i>	<i>English Pronunciation</i>
ض	z̤	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ط	t̤	/t/ as in 'Tacoma'
ظ	z̤	/z/ as in 'Zanesville'
ع	‘	glottal stop (glottal catch) as in 'uh-oh'
غ	gh	no English equivalent (closest is /g/ as in 'Gotham').
ف	f	/f/ as in 'Fayetteville'
ق	q	no English equivalent (closest is /k/ as in 'Copenhagen'); pronounce like Arabic qaf.
ك	k	/k/ as in 'California'
گ	g	/g/ as in 'Gotham'
ل	l	/l/ as in 'Londonderry'
م	m	/m/ as in 'Monaco'
ن	n	/n/ as in 'New Mexico'
ښ	ṇ	/n/ as in 'New Mexico,' but pronounced as if with an Indian accent.
و	v	/w/ as in 'Wilmette'
ه	h	/h/ as in 'Hyattsville'
ۀ	(-)	/t/ as in 'Tacoma'
ی	y	/y/ as in 'Youngstown'
zabar (fatḥah)	a	/a/ as in 'Chicago'
zēr	i	/ih/ as in 'Pittsburgh'
pēsh (ḡamah)	u	/uh/ as in 'put'
Zwarakay	ê	/ah/ as in

<i>Pashto Letter</i>	<i>BGN Romanized Form</i>	<i>English Pronunciation</i>
		‘Huntsville’
zabar alef	ā	/a/ as in ‘Chicago’
alêf maqṣūrah	á	/a/ as in ‘Chicago’
zēr yē	ī	/iy/ as in ‘Reno’
ma‘rūfah yē	ay	/ay/ as in ‘Hyattsville’
majhūlah yē	ē	/ey/ as in ‘Monterey’
dê tānīs saqīlah yē	êy	/oy/ as in ‘Troy’
pēsh wāw	ū	/u/ as in ‘Poolesville’
pēsh wāw sukūn	ow	/ow/ as in ‘Ocean City’
pēsh wāw yē	ūy	/ui/ as in ‘phooey’